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VP151
May 2000

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ViewSonic Model	CRT Size/ Viewable	Horizontal Dot Pitch	Maximum Resolution	OnView™	Low Radiation
EF70#	17/16.0	0.25/AG	1280 x 1024	YES	MPR-II
E771	17/16.0	0.24	1280 x 1024	YES	MPR-II
E773	17/16.0	0.23	1280 x 1024	YES	TCO '99
E790 ∞	19/18.0	0.22	1600 x 1280	YES	TCO '95

∞Also available in black bezel #PerfectFlat

Graphics Series

ViewSonic Model	CRT Size/ Viewable	Horizontal Dot Pitch	Maximum Resolution	OnView Controls	TCO Low Radiation
G5773*	17/16.0	0.22	1280 x 1024	YES	TCO '92
G5790*	19/18.0	0.22	1600 x 1280	YES	TCO '92
G810	21/20.0	0.22	1600 x 1280	YES	TCO '92

*Short Depth Monitor

Professional Series

ViewSonic Model	CRT Size/ Viewable	Horizontal Dot Pitch/ Aperture Grille Pitch	Maximum Resolution	TCO Low Radiation
PF77 #Δ	17/16.0	0.25/AG	1600 x 1280	TCO '99
PF775 #	17/16.0	0.25/AG	1600 x 1280	TCO '99
PS775 *	17/16.0	0.22	1600 x 1280	TCO '99
PF790 #	19/18.0	0.25-0.27/AG	1600 x 1280	TCO '99
PF795 #	19/18.0	0.25-0.27/AG	1920 x 1440	TCO '99
PS790*	19/18.0	0.22	1600 x 1280	TCO '99
P810	21/20.0	0.22	1800 x 1440	TCO '99
P815** *	21/20.0	0.22	1800 x 1440	TCO '99
PF815 #	22/20.0	0.25-0.27/AG	1920 x 1440	TCO '99

*Short Depth Monitor **Multi-port USB hub ΔDigital and Analog CRT

MultiMedia Series

ViewSonic Model	CRT Size/ Viewable	Horizontal Dot Pitch	Maximum Resolution	TCO Low Radiation	Speakers
M50	15/13.8	0.24	1280 x 1024	TCO '92	2-watt (X2)
M70 ∞	17/16.0	0.24	1280 x 1024	TCO '92	2-watt (X2)

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ViewPanel Series

ViewSonic Model	Screen Viewable	Special Feature	Maximum Resolution	Analog Interface	Bezel Integrated Speakers
VE150	15.0	WALL MOUNTABLE	1024 x 768	YES	
VG150	15.0	WALL MOUNTABLE	1024 x 768	YES	
VPA150	15.0	PIVOT	1024 x 768	YES	YES
VP150	15.0	WALL MOUNTABLE	1024 x 768	YES	
VP151†	15.0	COMPOSITE VIDEO	1280 x 1024	DIGITAL/ ANALOG	YES
VP181†	18.1	COMPOSITE VIDEO	1600 x 1200	DIGITAL/ ANALOG	YES
VG181 ∞	18.1	PIVOT	1280 x 1024	DIGITAL/ ANALOG	
VPD150	15.0	PIVOT	1024 x 768	DIGITAL INTERFACE	YES

†Currently audio, composite video and picture-in-picture features are supported via analog only. ∞Also available in black bezel

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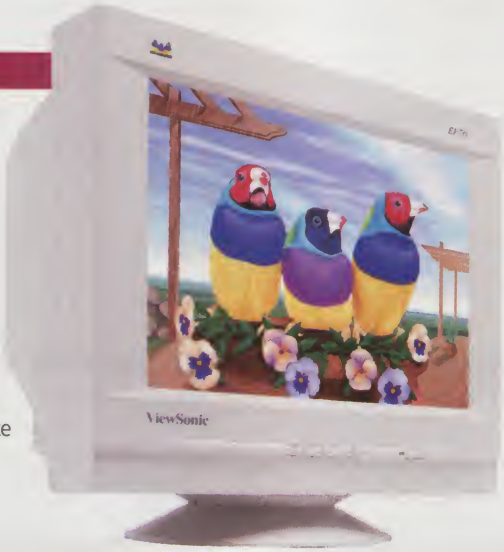

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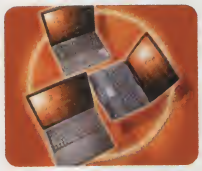
Intel's SpeedStep technology promises longer battery life in notebooks, but does it deliver? We tested six new SpeedStep desktop-replacement portables, and the results may surprise you.



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2-MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL CAMERA ROUNDUP *by Lori Grunin*

With attractive prices, excellent image quality, and abundant features, these new 2-megapixel digital cameras make it easier than ever to switch over to digital photography.

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ELECTRONIC BILL-PAYING SERVICES ROUNDUP
by John Kosmer

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Click Once, Click Twice, Sold! 178

HOW TO BUY A PC AT AN ONLINE AUCTION *by Kevin Savetz*

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WEB-ENABLED CELL PHONES *by Bruce Brown*

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best buys

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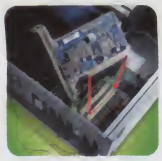

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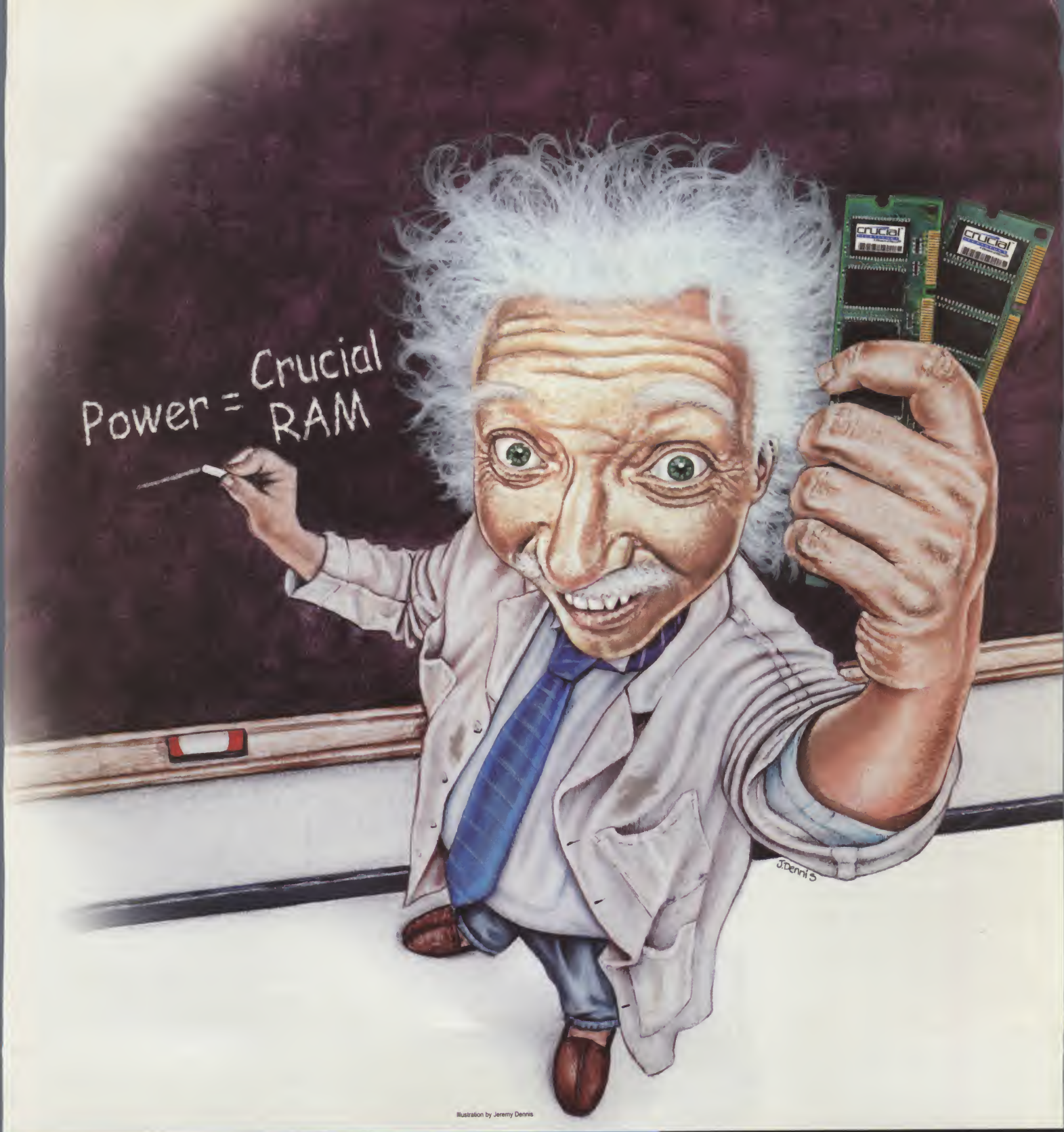

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from the editor

JANICE CHEN

The Web Everywhere

I admit it: I'm a Weather Channel junkie. Looking out the window may satisfy some, but I need to know the current temperature and the local forecast in several cities. I thought my speedy new cable modem—with its always-on connection—was keeping me adequately up-to-date, but that was until I got my hands on a Web-enabled cell phone.

By offering wireless access to the Web, Internet phones can deliver you a wealth of information virtually anytime, anywhere—ranging from e-mail to stock quotes, and yes, even current weather reports.

Our cover story, "The Web Is Calling" (p. 186), will get you up to speed on this new product category and help you decide whether a Net phone is a must-have tool for you. We examine the pros and cons of browsing by phone, help make sense of all the standards and protocols, and show what these devices can do for you now.

One of the most talked-about applications Web phones offer is the Internet's Next Big Thing, m-commerce. Mobile e-commerce, the ability to shop online via a wireless Web connection, has e-commerce leaders champing at the bit. Companies like Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and eBay have been quick to offer specially formatted content to enable mobile buying.

Here at *Computer Shopper*, we're also doing our part to make shopping easier, whether you're plugged in or wireless: As I noted last month, our Price It! service (which now bears the logo of our parent company, ZDNet) lets you check prices for any product we review, whether you're connected to a land line or surfing via a Web phone or a Palm VII.

No technology trend would be complete without Microsoft jumping on the bandwagon, and wireless Web surfing is no exception. Just take a look at our review of the HP Jornada 545 Pocket PC on p. 138. It's the first device we've tested based on Microsoft's new Pocket PC platform. The Type I CompactFlash expansion slot lets you add a wireless modem or connect to a data-enabled cell phone for Internet access. The new Microsoft OS (a revamped version of Windows CE) and bundled applications make communications easier as well: The new mobile version of Internet Explorer has been tweaked for speed, and Pocket versions of Word, Excel, and Outlook permit viewing of attachments in e-mail.

For those looking for more simplicity, check out the palm-size RIM 957 Wireless Handheld in our Hot Gear section on p. 56. This wireless device supports the new Blackberry 2.0 wireless e-mail solution and includes Neomar's WAP-compliant wireless Web browser, as well as a collection of productivity apps. And its always-on connection means you won't have to dial in.

With so many new methods of Internet access and with constantly improving connection technologies, you'll need more help than ever to decide what devices to buy. Starting this month, columnist Michael Slater will turn his attention from PC microprocessors—which he has expertly covered for over 12 years—to the latest in Internet and digital-media delivery devices. Turn to p. 85 to read his take on the ways pervasive Internet access will change how we live.

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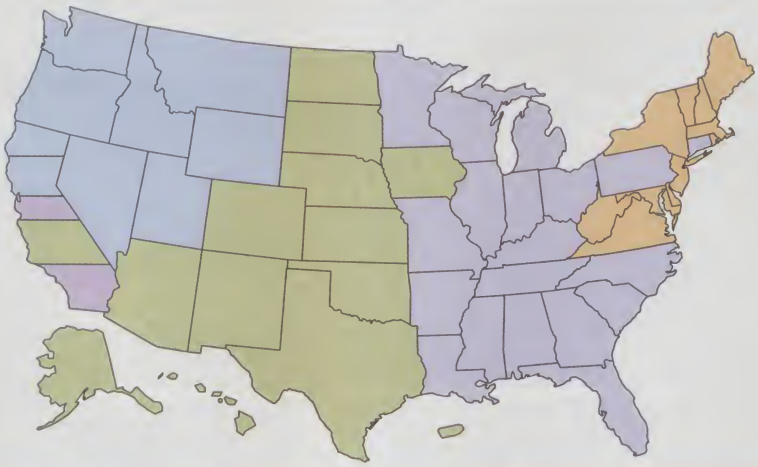

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- MS Internet Keyboard w/1 key web access & MS IntelliMouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition, Manual & CD
- Free Grolier's Encyclopedia CD & Norton AntiVirus
- Free Software: Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 CD
- ★ One Year Supreme Onsite Service

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
667MHz **$1879** #7115
733MHz **$1929** #7114 866MHz **$2249** #7112
800MHz **$2069** #7113 933MHz **$2429** #7111

ABS™ PERFORMANCE ALPHA

★ Computer Shopper Best Buy -May 2000
- 256MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 30GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- 10X DVD-ROM & Digital USB Camera
- **Plextor 32x8x4 CD ReWritable Drive**
- Nvidia Geforce 256 32MB SDR 128Bits 4X AGP
- Upgrade to Creative Annihilator 32MB DDR 4X AGP @$59
- 19" .26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Platinum Sound Card & Mic
- Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 Surround Sound System
- 3COM/USR PCI Hardware 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive and Microphone
- ABS™ Internet Keyboard w/easy Internet access keys & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition CD w/Manual
- Free Software: Corel Wordperfect Office 2000 CD
- Free Software: Grolier's Encyclopedia CD & Norton AntiVirus CD
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Intel® Pentium® III Processor
667MHz **$2019** #7145
733MHz **$2079** #7144 866MHz **$2389** #7142
800MHz **$2219** #7143 933MHz **$2569** #7141

ABS™ ALL U CAN SYSTEM 2

- 128MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 30GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- 10X DVD-ROM
- ATI All-In-Wonder 32MB AGP w/ TV Tuner & TV-In/Out
- Digital Color Internet Camera
- **Plextor 32X8X4 CD-ReWritable Drive**
- 19" .26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Value Sound Card & Mic
- Cambridge SoundWorks Digital 3 Pieces Sound System
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P, 1G, 2USB
- ABS™ Internet Keyboard w/easy internet access keys & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition, Manual & CD
- Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 & Norton Antivirus
- USB Flatbed Color 36Bits 300x600DPI Scanner
- Canon Bubble Jet 2010 Color Printer
- ★One Year Supreme Onsite Service

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
667MHz **$1889** #7185
733MHz **$1949** #7184 866MHz **$2259** #7182
800MHz **$2089** #7183 933MHz **$2439** #7181

ABS™ SUPREME DVD 3

★ Computer Shopper Best Buy -Dec 1999
- 128MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 20GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- 10X DVD-ROM
- 19" .26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Nvidia TNT2 128Bits 32MB 300MHz RAMDAC w/HD Open GL ICD & Direct3D/DirectX, up to 1920x1200 @16M Color
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Value Sound Card & Mic
- Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 4 Pieces Digital Surround Sound Speaker System w/Powered Subwoofer
- ZOOM PCI 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive and Microphone
- ABS™ Internet Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition CD w/Manual
- Free Software: Corel Wordperfect Office 2000 CD
- Free Software: Grolier's Encyclopedia CD & Norton AntiVirus CD
- ★ One Year Supreme Onsite Service

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
667MHz **$1429** #7135
733MHz **$1489** #7134 866MHz **$1799** #7132
800MHz **$1619** #7133 933MHz **$1979** #7131

ABS™ PERFORMANCE 1

- 256MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 40GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- 10X DVD-ROM
- **Plextor 32X8X4 CD-ReWritable Drive**
- Digital Color Internet Camera
- **New: Nvidia GeForce II 256 32MB DDR 4X AGP w/TV-Out** 32MB 350MHz DDR RAM Full OpenGL, DirectX/3D Support
- 19" .26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, 18.3" Viewable, MPR II
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Platinum Sound Card & Mic
- Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 Surround Sound System
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P, 1G, 2USB
- MS Natural KeyboardPro & MS IntelliMouse Explore
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition, Manual & CD
- Free Grolier's Encyclopedia CD & Norton AntiVirus
- Free Software: Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 CD
- ★One Year Supreme Onsite Service

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
667MHz **$2289** #7155
733MHz **$2339** #7154 866MHz **$2649** #7152
800MHz **$2479** #7153 933MHz **$2839** #7151

ABS™ SUPREME 3D SYSTEM 2

- 128MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 20GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- Creative 52X CD-ROM Drive
- Upgrade to 10X DVD ROM @$79
- Nvidia TNT2 128Bits 32MB 300MHz RAMDAC HW OpenGL, DirectX/3D
- 19" .26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Creative Labs Ensoniq 32V Wavetable Sound Card
- Labtec LCW-2414 Subwoofer Speaker System
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem & Mic
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P, 1G, 2USB
- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition, Manual & CD
- Free Grolier's Encyclopedia CD & Norton AntiVirus
- Free Software: Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 CD
- ★One Year Supreme Onsite Service

Intel® Celeron™ Processor w/128KB Cache
533MHz **$1089** #7029
600MHz **$1119** #7028 633MHz **$1149** #7027
Intel® Pentium® III Processor
667MHz **$1209** #7025 733MHz **$1259** #7024

ABS™ MULTIMEDIA SYSTEM 6

★ CNet Editor's Choice -Jan 2000
- 64MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 10GB Ultra Hard Drive
- 10X DVD-ROM Drive
- ATI Xpert98 8MB AGP Graphic Card
- 15" Color 1024x768Max Monitor
- Upgrade to 17" .27mm DP 1280x1024 Monitor @$79
- Creative Labs Ensoniq 32V Sound & Mic
- Labtec LCS-1050 Powered Stereo Speakers
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P, 1G, 2USB
- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition, Manual & CD
- Free Grolier's Encyclopedia CD & Norton AntiVirus
- Free Software: Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 CD
- ★ One Year Supreme Onsite Service

Intel® Celeron™ Processor w/128KB Cache
533MHz **$829** #7069
600MHz **$869** #7068 633MHz **$899** #7067
Intel® Pentium® III Processor
667MHz **$969** #7065 733MHz **$1029** #7064

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Intel Cabrillo-C Server Chassis
- ★ *Six Ultra2 SCSI Hot-Swap drive bays*
- ★ *Four fans support six 10K RPM Hard Drives*
- ★ *Extensive International Safety and EMC regulatory approvals*
- ★ *400Watts (sustained) Power Supply*
- ★ *Advanced Seven Fans Cooling System*
- ★ *Easy access design*

Intel Astor II Server Chassis
- ★ *Six Ultra2 SCSI Hot-Swap drive bays*
- ★ *Two fans support five 10K RPM Hard Drives*
- ★ *Extensive International Safety and EMC regulatory approvals*
- ★ *300Watts (sustained) Power Supply*
- ★ *Advanced Four Fans Cooling System*
- ★ *Easy access design*

ABS™ MONSTRA™ SB SERVER

Small Business

- Intel L440GX Server Board
- (Dual Processor Upgradeable)
- 128MB ECC Fast SDRAM Memory
- 9GB Ultra2Wide SCSI
- 52X CD-ROM Drive
- Integrated 2MB SGRAM Video Card
- Integrated EtherExpress Pro+10/100
- Integrated SCSI Dual Channel Ultra/Wide and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controller
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P,2USB
- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Intel Astor II Server Chasis w/S Hot-Swap Drive Bays w/2 Fans
- Optional Microsoft NT Server 4.0 w/10 Client Access @$525
- Optional UPS APC 1000 @$500

650MHz Intel® Pentium® III Processor **$1799** #7850

*Bus. Leases starting at **$70**/MO. (36-MO.)*

700MHz **$ 1849** #7851 800MHz **$ 1999** #7853

750MHz **$ 1949** #7852

ABS™ MONSTRA™ WG SERVER

Workgroup

- Intel L440GX Server Board
- (Dual Processor Upgradeable)
- 256MB ECC Fast SDRAM Memory
- 9GB Ultra2Wide SCSI
- 52X CD-ROM Drive
- Integrated 2MB SGRAM Video Card
- Integrated EtherExpress Pro+ 10/100
- Integrated SCSI Dual Channel Ultra/Wide and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controller
- Adaptec Raid Controller w/ CI/O Management Software
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P,2USB
- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Intel Astor II Server Chasis w/S Hot-Swap Drive Bays w/2 Fans
- Optional Microsoft NT Server 4.0 w/10 Client Access @$525
- Optional Raid 1 w/One Extra 9GB SCSI U2W HD @$250
- Optional Raid 5 w/Two Extra 9GB SCSI U2W HD @$500

650MHz Intel® Pentium® III Processor **$2329** #7860

*Bus. Leases starting at **$90**/MO. (36-MO.)*

700MHz **$ 2369** #7861 800MHz **$ 2519** #7863

750MHz **$ 2469** #7862

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- (Dual Processor Upgradeable)
- 256MB ECC Fast SDRAM Memory
- 9GB Ultra2Wide SCSI
- 52X CD-ROM Drive
- Integrated 2MB SGRAM Video Card
- Integrated EtherExpress Pro+10/100
- Integrated SCSI Dual Channel Ultra/Wide and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controller
- Adaptec Raid Controller 133U2 w/CI/O Management Software
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P,2USB
- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Intel Cabrillo C Server Chasis w/5 Hot-Swap Drive Bays w/2 Fans
- Optional Microsoft NT Server 4.0 w/10 Client Access @$525
- Optional Raid 1 w/One Extra 9GB SCSI U2W HD @$250
- Optional Raid 5 w/Two Extra 9GB SCSI U2W HD @$500

500MHz Intel® Pentium® III Xeon™ Processor **$4139** #7870

*Bus. Leases starting at **$155**/MO. (36-MO.)*

ABS™ CONQUEST VL DESKTOP

Value System

- 64MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 10GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- 52X CD-ROM Drive
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- 15" .28mm DP Color Monitor
- 10/100 Ethernet Card
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P, 2USB
- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition, Manual & CD
- Microsoft Word, Works, Encarta, Money & Norton Antivirus
- ★ One Year Supreme Onsite Service
- ★ ADD: 64MB Fast SDRAM @$89
- ★ ADD: Ensoniq 32V Sound & Labtec LCS1050 Speaker @$49
- ★ Upgrade to: 17" .27DP Monitor @$79

667MHz Intel® Pentium® III Processor **$999** #7810

*Bus. Leases starting at **$40**/MO. (36-MO.)*

733MHz **$ 1059** #7811 866MHz **$ 1369** #7813

Intel® Celeron™ Processor w/128KB Cache

500MHz **$ 809** #7812 533MHz **$ 849** #7814

ABS™ CONQUEST SB DESKTOP

Small Business

- 128MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 20GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- 52X CD-ROM Drive
- 17" .27mm DP Color Monitor
- **Matrox G400 32MB AGP Dual Monitor Support w/TV Out**
- Creative Labs Ensoniq 32V Sound
- Labtec LCS1050 Power Stereo System
- 3Com/USR 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem & Mic
- 3Com 10/100Base-T Ethernet Card
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P, 2USB
- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition, Manual & CD
- Microsoft Word, Works, Encarta, Money & Norton Antivirus
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667MHz Intel® Pentium® III Processor **$1389** #7820

*Bus. Leases starting at **$54**/MO. (36-MO.)*

733MHz **$ 1439** #7821 866MHz **$ 1749** #7823

800MHz **$ 1579** #7822 933MHz **$ 1939** #7824

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- 30GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- 10X DVD-ROM Drive
- **Plextor 32X8X4 CD-Rewritable Drive**
- **Matrox G400 32MB AGP Dual Monitor Support w/TV Out**
- 19" .26DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor
- Creative Labs Live! Value Sound & Mic
- Altec Lansing 4S.2 Powered Stereo Speakers w/Subwoofer
- 3Com/USR 56K V.90 & 10/100Base-T Ethernet Card
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P, 1G, 2USB
- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition, Manual & CD
- Microsoft Word, Works, Encarta, Money & Norton Antivirus
- ★ One Year Supreme Onsite Service

667MHz Intel® Pentium® III Processor **$1939** #7830

*Bus. Leases starting at **$75**/MO. (36-MO.)*

733MHz **$ 1999** #7831 866MHz **$ 2309** #7833

800MHz **$ 2129** #7832 933MHz **$ 2489** #7834

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- **Intel 2150 2U Rack Server**
- Intel L440GX Server Board
- (Dual Processor Upgradeable)
- 128MB ECC Fast SDRAM Memory
- 9GB Ultra2Wide SCSI

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- 24X CD-ROM & 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 8MB 128Bits 2X AGP Graphics
- 56Kbps V.90 Data/Fax Modem PCMCIA
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- 2X AGP 4MB ATI RAGE Mobility™-P 3D Video
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- 3-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service[4]

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- Modular 24X Max Variable CD-ROM/ Floppy Drive
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI RAGE Mobility™-P 3D Video
- 52WHr Lithium Ion Battery
- Microsoft® Office 2000 Small Business
- Microsoft® Windows® 98, Second Edition
- 3-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service[4]

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DELL™ LATITUDE™ CPt

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- Microsoft® Windows® 98, Second Edition
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- Removable Combo 24X Max Variable CD-ROM/Floppy Drive
- 2X AGP 4MB ATI RAGE Mobility™-P 3D Video
- Microsoft® Office 2000 Small Business
- NEW MS® Windows® 2000 Professional
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- Removable Combo 24X Max Variable CD-ROM/Floppy Drive
- 2X AGP 4MB ATI RAGE Mobility™-P 3D Video
- Microsoft® Office 2000 Small Business
- Microsoft® Windows® 98, Second Edition
- 3-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service[4]

$2549 E•VALUE CODE 05814-890625

BUSINESS LEASE: $70/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

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DELL™ LATITUDE™ CPt

Network-Optimized Notebook

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- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- 32MB SDRAM, 6.0GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Modular 24X Max CD-ROM/Floppy Drive
- MS® Windows® 98, Second Edition
- Li-Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
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- Internal 56K Capable[6] SoftModem
- 1-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service[4]

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BUSINESS LEASE: $48/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

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BUSINESS LEASE: $58/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

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- NEW MS® Windows® 2000 Professional
- Li-Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
- Dual Pointing – Touchpad and Pointing Stick
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THANKS LOTS FOR THE BOTS

Thanks for the May feature on shopping bots, "Battle of the Bots" (p. 180). Ever since I purchased my Handspring Visor PDA about two months ago, I've been eagerly awaiting the Targus keyboard accessory from Think Outside to hit the stores. After I read your shopping-bot feature, I decided to give the bots a try. MySimon turned up two sites selling the Targus at good prices, but Computers4Sure.com beat them both, pricing it for $13 less than the suggested price. So I ordered it. Now if only *Computer Shopper* could help me get my Visor back from my oldest daughter.

RAY BEAVER

I always use shopping bots to find the best prices when I buy online. However, there are many different types of bots, and you need to use the one that's most appropriate for what you are shopping for. One bot may be good for computer stuff, while a different bot will be better for home products. Another one will find you a good price on a car, but you'll want to use yet another for something like insurance or travel.

I suggest trying PricingCentral.com, where many shopping bots are categorized for you. You can easily find the appropriate bots for the kinds of products you're looking for. I usually use several from each category because I want to be sure to get the best price.

M. HUNT

DEALER RUINS THE DEAL

Your March feature "The Wheel Deal" (p. 192) was outstanding and included almost all the relevant information you need to buy a car online. What was absent from the article, however, were some real-life experiences. My experience with the dealership I was referred to was less than positive. The online service I used said it would sever its business relationship with this dealership, but it never did. Online car buying has great potential—I'd do it again, using another service—but it's not without pitfalls.

PIERO BIANCO

LINKSYS SATISFACTION

I recently purchased the Linksys HomeLink Phoneline system from my local Office Depot for $49 (after a $20 instant rebate). I was then pleasantly surprised to find this product mentioned in your May feature "Home Sweet Home Networking" (p. 162).

Good call, *Computer Shopper!* In all my 12-plus years of having a PC in the home, the Linksys HomeLink is the first product I've purchased that was not only easy to install, but also worked as advertised immediately after installation.

The packaged software, WinGate Home, is also straightforward and extremely simple to set up. Now we enjoy having multiple computers in different parts of the house sharing the same Internet connection, as well as sharing files and the same printer. This is the best $49 computer purchase I have ever made.

KEN ALLEN

SOUND ADVICE

The May Tune-Up feature, "Now That's Entertainment!" (p. 278), was just what I was looking for. I've been wanting to set up my computer as a home-entertainment system for a while now, but finding someone who knows how to do it has proved difficult. This handy Tune-Up article answered a lot of my questions. Thanks to *Computer Shopper,* I'm ready to dive into my project.

JASON BOWMAN

<COMING NEXT MONTH>

Studious Systems for Less

Got lots of school work coming up, but your tired old PC can't *make the grade?* We check out a range of powerful desktops just right for the dorm room. Plus, they're inexpensive, so you can spend your money on the really important things, like soap and cleaning supplies.

Digital Movie Magic

Films like *The Matrix* and *Star Wars Episode I* have demonstrated the sheer force of digital cinematography. See how the latest digital camcorders—and your computer—let you bring some of that power to your home-movie projects.

Firewalls Get Personal

The Internet isn't the safe and benign place it once was. Web fiends grow bolder every day, and with more and more homes switching to DSL and cable connections, deploying a firewall is a smart move. We'll show you which firewall software is the safest and the easiest to set up.

Hard Drives, Easy Choices

Replacing your desktop's hard drive with one that's bigger and faster can have profoundly positive effects on your system's overall performance. We tell you how to choose a drive with the right speed, size, interface, bundled software, and price.

It's amazing how little computer guys know about home audio and video. First, please use the correct terminology. The Mitsubishi M-VR700 in the May Tune-Up feature is a surround-sound receiver, not a stereo. Stereo sound has only two channels, and a surround-sound receiver in Dolby Digital 5.1 or DTS provides up to five fully discrete channels (left front, right front, center, left surround, right surround) and a Low Frequency Effects (LFE) channel for the subwoofer, hence the name 5.1. THX EX, which has just been released, adds a surround center channel to the rear for one or two channels, but it's not a discrete channel. It's encoded much like the center channel in Dolby Pro Logic.

Second, if price was no object, why spend almost $6,000 on a projector and only $1,500 on the surround-sound receiver and speakers? Why not go for the Harman Kardon AVR 7000, or better yet, a Denon AVR-5700? The Denon sells for about $2,600. And if you're going to use a projector, why get dinky little speakers? My center channel is bigger than that subwoofer!

EUGENE Z. DIZON

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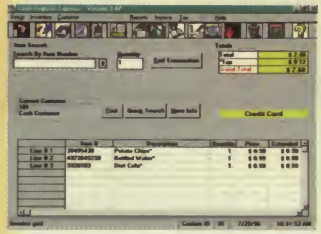

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64MB SDRAM (expandable to 512MB)
14.1" TFT (1024 x 768) display
24X Max CD-ROM drive[3]
Integrated 56K V.90 modem[5]
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AWARDS[2]

Armada E500 — WinList
WinMag.com, March 2000

Deskpro EP — Best of the Best
WinMag.com, September 1999

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2>

3>

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- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
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- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- 14.0"w x 11.0"d x 2.2"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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NP8550i

- **15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology**
- **128MB 100MHz SDRAM**
- **18.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- **6X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†**
- **Modular LS-120 SuperDisk™ Drive**
- **15-cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery**
- **102-key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad**
- **IEEE-1394 Port**
- 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- 14.0"w x 11.0"d x 2.2"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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NP8550e

- **15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Mobile Pentium® III Processor 650MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology**
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- **12.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- **6X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†**
- **15-cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery**
- **102-key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad**
- **IEEE-1394 Port**
- 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120, Iomega® Zip Drive or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- 14.0"w x 11.0"d x 2.2"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$2445

NP8550c

- **15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Intel® Pentium® III Processor 600MHz**
- **64MB 100MHz SDRAM**
- **12.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- **6X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†**
- **15-cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery**
- **102-key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad**
- **IEEE-1394 Port**
- 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120, Iomega® Zip Drive or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- 14.0"w x 11.0"d x 2.2"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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NP2850s

- **15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Mobile Pentium® III Processor 750MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology**
- **128MB SDRAM**
- **12.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- **6X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†**
- **Integrated 10/100 Ethernet**
- **Thin (1.49") and Lightweight (7.1 lbs.)**
- 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- *A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard*
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- *Deluxe Carrying Case*
- 12.8"w x 10.51"d x 1.49"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$2645

NP2850e

- **15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology**
- **64MB 100MHz SDRAM**
- **12.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- **6X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†**
- **Integrated 10/100 Ethernet**
- **Thin (1.49") and Lightweight (7.1 lbs.)**
- 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- 12.8"w x 10.51"d x 1.49"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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NP2850i

- **15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology**
- **64MB 100MHz SDRAM**
- **12.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- **24X Max. CD-ROM Drive***
- **Integrated 10/100 Ethernet**
- **Thin (1.49") and Lightweight (7.1 lbs.)**
- 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- 12.8"w x 10.51"d x 1.49"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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NP2850c

- **15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz**
- **64MB 100MHz SDRAM**
- **6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- **24X Max. CD-ROM Drive***
- **Integrated 10/100 Ethernet**
- **Thin (1.49") and Lightweight (7.1 lbs.)**
- 128KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- 12.8"w x 10.51"d x 1.49"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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- Car Adapter
- Iomega® Zip Drive (NP8500)
- LS-120 Drive (NP8500)
- Port Replicator (NP8500)
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- **6X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†**
- **Modular LS-120 SuperDisk™ Drive exchangeable with optional 2nd HDD**
- **IEEE-1394 Port**
- 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 6.8 lbs with Battery
- 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.58"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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NP3350i

- **14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology**
- **128MB 100MHz SDRAM**
- **12.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- **6X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†**
- **Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with LS-120 Drive or 2nd HDD**
- **IEEE-1394 Port**
- 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 6.8 lbs with Battery
- 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.58"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$2295

NP3350e

- **14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology**
- **64MB 100MHz SDRAM**
- **12.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- **6X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†**
- **Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with LS-120 Drive or 2nd HDD**
- **IEEE-1394 Port**
- 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 6.8 lbs with Battery
- 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.58"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$1995

NP3350c

- **14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Mobile Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz**
- **64MB 100MHz SDRAM**
- **6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- **24X Max. CD-ROM Drive***
- **Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with LS-120 Drive or 2nd HDD**
- **IEEE-1394 Port**
- 128KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 6.8 lbs with Battery
- 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.58"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$1745

NP3220s

- **13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Intel® Pentium® III Processor 600MHz**
- **64MB SDRAM**
- **12.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- **Hot-Swappable Bay for 6X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†, 3.5" FDD (both included) or opt. LS-120 Drive**
- **Internal 56K V.90 Fax/Modem△**
- **Thin (1.26") and Lightweight (5.6 lbs.)**
- **2-Tone Beauty**
- 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 5.6 lbs with Battery
- 12.05"w x 9.13"d x 1.26"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$1945

NP3220i

- **12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Intel® Pentium® III Processor 600MHz**
- **64MB SDRAM**
- **6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- **Hot-Swappable Bay for 6X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†, 3.5" FDD (both included) or opt. LS-120 Drive**
- **Internal 56K V.90 Fax/Modem△**
- **Thin (1.26") and Lightweight (5.6 lbs.)**
- **2-Tone Beauty**
- 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 5.6 lbs with Battery
- 12.05"w x 9.13"d x 1.26"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$1795

NP3220e

- **13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz**
- **64MB SDRAM**
- **6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- **Hot-Swappable Bay for 24X Max. CD-ROM*, 3.5" FDD (both included) or opt. LS-120 Drive**
- **Internal 56K V.90 Fax/Modem△**
- **Thin (1.26") and Lightweight (5.6 lbs.)**
- **2-Tone Beauty**
- 128KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 5.6 lbs with Battery
- 12.05"w x 9.13"d x 1.26"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$1645

NP3220c

- **12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz**
- **32MB SDRAM**
- **6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- **Hot-Swappable Bay for 24X Max. CD-ROM*, 3.5" FDD (both included) or opt. LS-120 Drive**
- **Internal 56K V.90 Fax/Modem△**
- **Thin (1.26") and Lightweight (5.6 lbs.)**
- **2-Tone Beauty**
- 128KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 5.6 lbs with Battery
- 12.05"w x 9.13"d x 1.26"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$1495

OPTIONS

- Car Adapter
- LS-120 Drive
- Port Replicator (NP3350)
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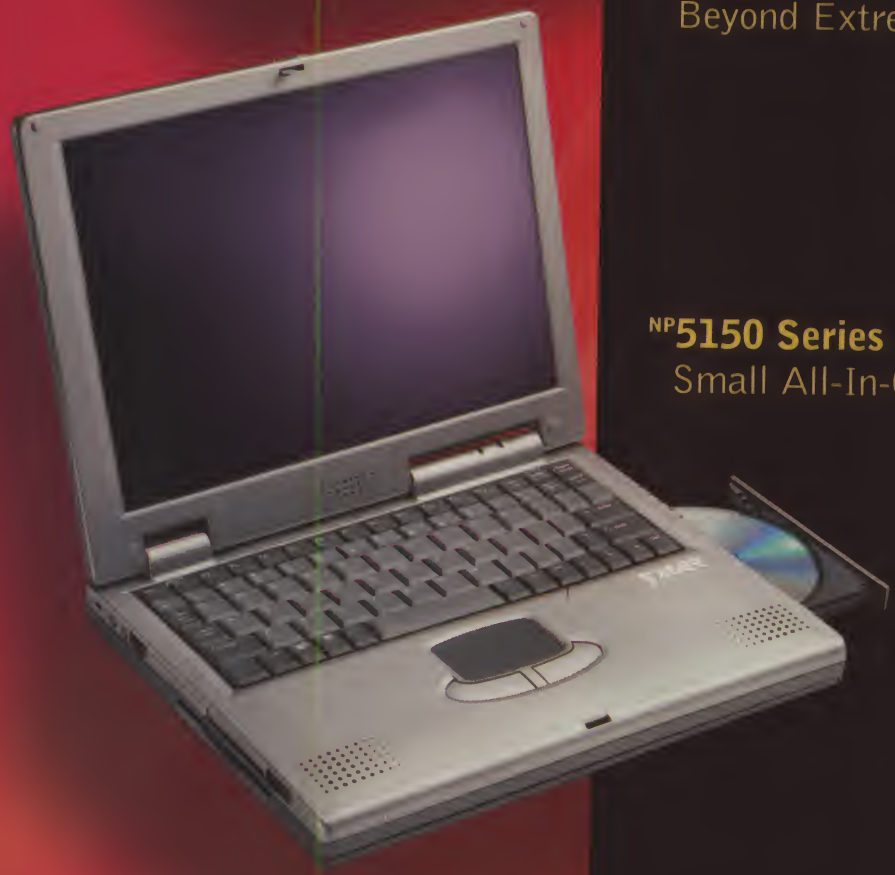

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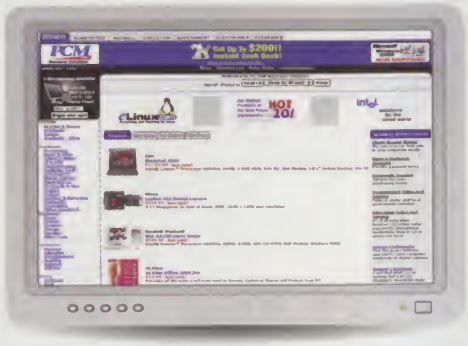

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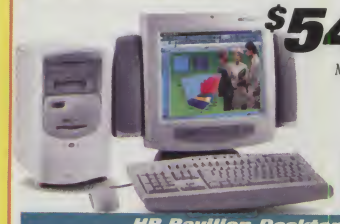

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#70695	664313U	667 PIII	64MB	20GB	W98	24X	15" TFT	$2,397
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*Windows 98

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*Windows 98

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#61496

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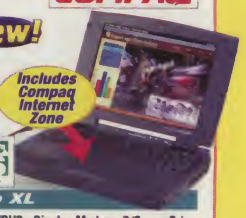

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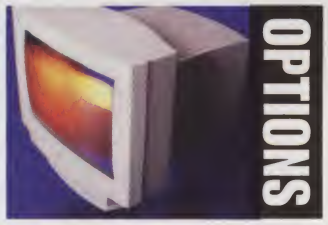

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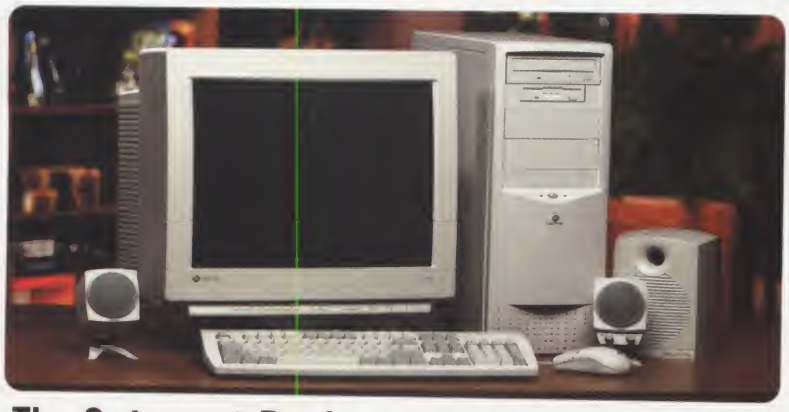

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- 6X DVD-ROM Drive
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- MS Works Suite 99 Software

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MEAN GAMING

▲ *PC Gamer Editors' Choice—April 1999*

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- 256MB Kingmax TinyBGA PC133 SDRAM Memory (768MB Max)
- Leadtek GeForce256 DDR 4X AGP with NVIDIA GeForce256 and 32MB DDR SGRAM
- Maxtor DiamondMax Plus 30GB 9.0ms 7200rpm Ultra ATA/66 Hard Drive with 2048KB Buffer
- Optiquest Q95 19" (18") .26mm 1600@76Hz Monitor
- Shuttle SDVD-101 10X DVD-ROM / 40X CD-ROM
- Creative Sound Blaster Live! PCI Sound Card
- Creative PC Works FourPointSurround FPS1000 5-Piece Shielded Speaker System
- LS-120 120MB / 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- SmartLink 56K V.90 PCI Voice Faxmodem
- SmartLink 10/100 PCI Ethernet Network Card
- Addtronics 3890A 250W ATX Mid-Tower: 7 Drive Bays 1 External 3.5" (1 Used) / 2 Internal 3.5" (1 Used) 3 External 5.25" (1 Used)
- Logitech First Mouse+w/scroll wheel
- Logitech Internet Keyboard
- MS Windows 98 Preinstalled, CD-ROM Included

$2249

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VALUE GAMING

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- 128MB Kingmax TinyBGA PC133 SDRAM Memory (768MB Max)
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- Tatung C7BZR-25 17" (15.9") .25mm 1600@77Hz Monitor
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Tyan S1854S Trinity 400 *MB6018*	$104.99

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- ATI XPERT2000 AGP2X Graphics with 32MB SDRAM
- Maxtor DiamondMax Plus 30GB 9.0ms 7200rpm Ultra ATA/66 Hard Drive with 2048KB Buffer
- Tatung C7BZR-25 17" (15.7") .25mm 1024@85Hz (1280NI Max) Monitor
- Acer CD-650P 50X Max Variable CD-ROM
- Creative Labs Vibra 128 PCI 128-Voice Wavetable
- MLi-270TA Toshiba 3D processor with 18W/ch PMPO:350W 2-way Speaker System
- Teac 3½" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- Intel EtherExpress PRO/100+ TX PCI Network Card
- Super Mini Tower 250W ATX: 7 Drive Bays 2 External 3.5" (1 Used) / 2 Internal 3.5" (1 Used) 3 External 5.25" (1 Used)
- 7 Expansion Slots: 6 PCI Slots (2 Used) / 1 ISA Slots (0 Used) / 1 AGP (Used) Slot
- Logitech First Mouse+w/scroll wheel
- Logitech Internet Keyboard
- MS Windows 2000 Professional Preinstalled, CD-ROM Included

$1369

ABERDEEN INVERNESS D89
INTEL® CELERON™ PROCESSOR 633MHz
BUSINESS WORKHORSE

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- 128KB On-Die L2 cache
- 64MB Kingmax TinyBGA PC100 SDRAM Memory (768MB Max)
- Diamond SpeedStar A200 AGP2X Graphics with 8MB SDRAM
- Western Digital WD136AA 13.6GB 5400rpm 9.5ms Ultra ATA/66 Hard Drive with 2048KB Buffer
- KDS VS-7e 17" (16") .28mm 1024@85Hz (1280NI Max) Monitor
- Acer CD-650P 50X Max Variable CD-ROM
- Teac 3½" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- SmartLink 10/100 PCI Ethernet Network Card
- Super Mini Tower 250W ATX: 7 Drive Bays 2 External 3.5" (1 Used) / 2 Internal 3.5" (1 Used) 3 External 5.25" (1 Used)
- 7 Expansion Slots: 5 PCI Slots (2 Used) / 2 ISA Slots (0 Used) / 1 AGP (Used) Slot
- Logitech First Mouse+w/scroll wheel
- Acer 104-key Keyboard
- MS Windows 2000 Professional Preinstalled, CD-ROM Included

$959

ABERDEEN INVERNESS D11
INTEL® CELERON™ PROCESSOR 600MHz
FAMILY SYSTEM

- Shuttle ME64 Motherboard with Intel 810E Chipset and 66/100/133MHz Frontside System Bus
- Supports Slot 1 and Socket 370 processors
- 128KB On-Die L2 cache
- 64MB Kingmax TinyBGA PC100 SDRAM Memory (512MB Max)
- Integrated Intel 810E 2D/3D Graphics with 4MB Cache
- Western Digital WD136AA 13.6GB 5400rpm 9.5ms Ultra ATA/66 Hard Drive with 2048KB Buffer
- Tatung C5BZR 15" (13.7) .28mm 1280@60Hz Monitor
- Acer CD-650P 50X Max Variable CD-ROM
- Integrated Intel 810E AC97 Audio
- Logitech KOSS 4W Shielded Speaker System
- Teac 3½" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- SmartLink 56K V.90 PCI Voice Faxmodem
- Super Mini Tower 250W ATX: 7 Drive Bays 2 External 3.5" (1 Used) / 2 Internal 3.5" (1 Used)3 External 5.25" (1 Used)
- 7 Expansion Slots: 5 PCI Slots (2 Used) / 2 ISA Slots (0 Used) / 1 AGP (Used) Slot
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- Acer 104-key Keyboard
- MS Windows 98 Preinstalled, CD-ROM Included

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WINDOWS: The Millennium And Beyond

Microsoft Corp. just wants you to have fun. Or at least that's the focus of its Windows Millennium Edition (ME) operating system, the successor to Windows 98 that's due by December. The updated OS aims to transform the PC into a flexible platform for digital entertainment and creativity.

Carl Stork, general manager of Microsoft's Windows hardware strategy group, says Windows ME will simplify the use of digital music, photography, scanning, and other forms of digital entertainment. For instance, ME will offer a Movie Maker that helps novices create movies from images and video. Music-management features will include a more sophisticated version of Windows Media Player equipped with an Internet radio tuner.

An ongoing objective, Stork says, is to create a faster, easier out-of-box experience for users. He says Microsoft is especially focused on a speedier boot, aiming for a startup time of 25 seconds, and enhanced hibernate/resume performance. The OS also will fully support legacy-free systems and include a wizard that will simplify home networking, he says. Assuming the DOJ doesn't object, version 5.5 of Internet Explorer will be under the hood.

Beyond that, Windows ME, which will be the final OS based on Windows 98 code, will debut "PC Health" features that aim to boost system reliability and support. Examples cited by Stork include system-file protection, a method for restoring previous configurations, and unified help options.

ILLUSTRATION BY WILLIAM RIESER

What's more, a Windows Update feature will download updates in the background, then advise users that updates are ready for installation.

"You may get an automatic message advising that there's an update available and asking if you want to install it," Stork says. "You'll see increased use of the Web to enrich and automate the experience."

Late in 2001, expect the arrival of a consumer OS codenamed Whistler, which will be based on Windows 2000, the successor to the NT kernel. "For home users, Whistler will marry the robustness of Windows 2000 with the ease of use that they expect from Windows ME," Stork says.

Microsoft's vision of Whistler is as "the heart of the digital home," Stork says. It should take rich digital media and entertainment capabilities to even higher levels.

—*Rik Fairlie*

The Top 10 PRODUCTS SOLD on computershopper.com in April 2000

(Ranking based on total initiated orders)

1	Palm IIIx	PDA
2	Epson Stylus Color 900	printer
3	HP LaserJet 4050TN	printer
4	Canon BJC-1000	printer
5	Nikon Coolpix 950	camera
6	Olympus C-2000 Zoom	camera
7	Canon BJC-2000	printer
8	Agfa ePhoto CL30	camera
9	HP Jornada 680	PDA
10	HP ScanJet 5200C	scanner

Source: Computer Shopper Executive Summary database, April 2000

SHRUNKEN STORAGE

If you own a pocketful of portable digital devices, chances are many of them rely on a different medium for removable storage. Equally likely, the storage medium is pricey. For instance, 64MB of CompactFlash memory used in most gadgets will cost you about $150.

High-tech startup **DataPlay** ***(www.dataplay.com)*** is betting it has a solution to this media mess. DataPlay recently unveiled technology, set to debut by mid-2001, that it claims will deliver removable storage that's inexpensive *and* high-capacity. Its tiny DataPlay disc measures about an inch square and is based on optical technology similar to that employed by CD-R discs. Each disc holds 500MB (250MB per side) and should cost $5 to $10 a pop. DataPlay's one usability drawback is that the technology is write-once.

But that's not stopping Steve Volk, DataPlay's CEO, from declaring the platform to be "the content-distribution medium for the new economy." He also touts DataPlay's ContentKey capability to contain "locked" content—music, for example—that can be unlocked on the Web.

"You could go to a store and buy a disc containing five albums but only pay for access to one, then later purchase keys to the rest online," Volk says.

It's too early to predict whether the format will catch on. "DataPlay needs two things to guarantee its success: content providers for its media and devices that support it," says Michael Goodman, an analyst for the **Yankee Group.**

—*Brian Bennett*

Compact disc

NET NOW

AOL EVERYWHERE, WITH GATEWAY'S HELP

Recognizing that a good Internet appliance is a combination of a fitting form factor and compelling content, **Gateway** and **America Online** have joined forces to create a family of home devices. The Linux-based systems will all run a specialized version of AOL called Instant AOL, which will be immediately available when the devices are powered on.

Three form factors will be on hand: a countertop appliance, a desktop appliance, and a wireless Web pad. Each will cost under $500. The devices should start hitting the market by year's end, although the Web pad probably won't be available until early 2001.

A Web appliance for every room

Gateway says the countertop appliance will resemble a small, light notebook with an LCD screen of about 10 inches, while the desktop version will be more PC-like, with a 15-inch CRT. Perhaps the most compelling will be the Web pad, which will be about the size of an Etch A Sketch, according to John Spelich, Gateway's director of corporate communications.

The appliances will deliver many of the same services as standard AOL but use the scaled-down Netscape Gecko browser. Besides AOL fare, the devices will offer specialized content, some of which will be based on where the appliance resides. For instance, the countertop version, expected to be used primarily in the kitchen, will offer links to places such as recipe-posting and food-shopping sites.

Do these appliances portend the end for PCs? Don't count on it.

Gateway's Spelich explains that they are highly complementary to the PC. "Somewhere in the networked home you'll need a PC as a server to let you use these devices simultaneously and in all rooms," he says. Still, there's no question that if anyone can possibly change the perception of the limitation of Internet appliances, AOL, with its 22 million members, can.

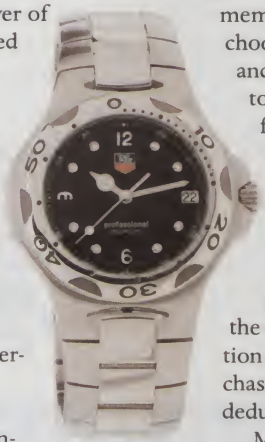
It will be interesting to see how Instant AOL fares against such initiatives as VirginConnect *(www.virginconnectme.com)*, a new program from **Virgin Entertainment Group.** The entertainment giant is providing a Webplayer Web device and Internet access for $50 per year. The catch is that users must surrender personal data—and fit the "Virgin lifestyle" criteria to qualify for the device.

—Neil Randall

C'mon, Click For Charity

If spending a virtual fortune shopping online makes you feel a bit self-indulgent, take advantage of a new way to give to others while you spend on yourself. In other words, you'll feel much better about that TAG Heuer watch in your shopping cart if you buy it in the **iGive.com** mall. That's because a percentage of everything you spend goes to the charity of your choice.

Recognizing the power of e-commerce and the need to make e-philanthropy simple for consumers, iGive.com has forged agreements with more than 224 online merchants to donate a portion of the price of everything purchased by iGive.com members. Percentages range from 0.5 percent to 33 percent depending on the merchant.


It's time to give.

The mall includes vendors such as **Amazon.com, Ashford.com, CDNow** *(www.cdnow.com)*, **Lands' End** *(www.landsend.com)*, **The Sharper Image** *(www.sharperimage.com)*, **Furniture.com,** and **Dell Computer Corp.** *(www.dell.com)*. Members can buy everything from flowers and groceries to electronics and computers, and many merchants offer free shipping or special discounts exclusively for iGive.com members.

"Our online merchants offer consumers the same or lower prices they would pay anywhere else, with a percentage of their purchase price benefiting their own personal favorite cause," says Robert Grosshandler, iGive.com's founder. "People have an easy way to raise money for what they really care about."

Here's how it works: Go to the site, register to become a member (it's free), choose a charity, and start shopping to raise money for your cause. Your charity will even get an additional $10 when you make your first purchase. Plus, the donated portion of every purchase is tax-deductible.

More than 9,100 charities are registered with iGive.com. Causes range from national charities such as **AmFAR,** the **American Cancer Society,** and **Greenpeace** to local grassroots organizations such as local PTAs, school sports programs, and Scout groups. Best of all, you can register your own group, provided it's a charitable or nonprofit organization that can be verified by iGive.com.

So if you're going to shop online anyway, why not invest in some virtual karma?

—Wendy Sheehan

START ME UP—FAST!

The time it takes to boot up a computer has always been vexing. **Microsoft Corp.** chairman Bill Gates says it's now "one of the most important issues" for the company. Gates discussed boot-up speeds for a variety of OSs at a recent industry conference.

Windows Millennium Edition: Up and running in 25 seconds. "That's a real milestone, but we can do better," Gates says.

Sony PlayStation: Buzzing along in 33 seconds. No comment.

Apple iMac: Shuffles in at 70 seconds. "We could have demonstrated that, but we just didn't have the time for it."

Windows of the future: "Our goal is to get boot time to the 10-second range."

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NET NOW

Shopping for Your Next President

You can't vote for president on the Internet—yet—but a slew of Web sites deliver detailed candidate information that you couldn't cull from 10-second sound bites on the evening news. If you're still browsing for your next president, here's a few sites for comparison-shopping.

John Brantley
INDEPENDENT

C-SPAN ***(www.cspan.org/campaign2000)*** serves up comprehensive information about candidates, including a searchable database with several years of video clips. Other resources include links to candidate sites, an archive of campaign TV ads, a campaign calendar, and a teaching-resources link. Most of the information is in RealPlayer video format.

Howard Phillips
CONSTITUTION PARTY

Ralph Nader
GREEN PARTY

Northern Illinois University's WhiteHouse 2000 site ***(www.niu.edu/newsplace/whitehouse.html)*** has more than 60 links to news archives, interactive candidate selectors, convention information, debate schedules, and polling sites. Get through all that and you'll need the 30 links to political humor sites.

Project Vote Smart ***(www.vote-smart.org)*** tracks 11,555 politicians, from state-government representatives to president. Select one, and you'll get detailed biographical backgrounds that spell out educational data and religious persuasion. Its Presidential Election 2000 resource page lists nearly 160 candidates, from the obvious to lesser-known choices such as Temperance Alesha Lance-Council, who is running on the Anti-Hypocrisy Party platform. You'll also find candidate positions as measured by the National Political Awareness Test that polls candidates for information about whether they would support or reject certain positions.

Temperance Lance-Council
ANTI-HYPOCRISY PARTY

Democracy Net ***(www.dnet.org)*** hosts a virtual debate among candidates. Pick the issue, choose a candidate, and you'll see a video clip explaining the candidate's position on that subject in his or her own words.

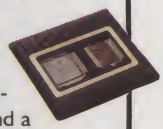
Stephen Brown
INDEPENDENT

Still can't make up your mind? **SpeakOut.com's** interactive poll page ***(speakout.com/selectsmart)*** compares candidates based on your answers to 17 questions on topics ranging from abortion to gay rights. The candidates are given a single numeric rating that shows how well their stated positions fit with yours.

—John McCormick

BEHIND THE MARKETING MACHINE

"The dirty little secret of the PC hardware industry is that most users don't care about performance anymore. Most computers are fast enough for what they use them for, the software is very far behind, and the processors don't really demand a lot more memory bandwidth. PC makers just want a new technology to sell each year. This year got PC133. And next year DDR [double data rate] RAM will become popular because they will need a new secret sauce to pitch to customers."



—Michael Slater, founder, MicroDesign Resources, speaking to Windows hardware developers

INTERMENT BY INTERNET

Bet there's one thing you *haven't* bought online yet: a coffin. Now you can, thanks to a handful of new sites that enable you to plan for death and arrange your funeral service.

FinalThoughts.com ***(www.finalthoughts.com)***, **FuneralNet** ***(www.funeralnet.com)***, **Sea Services** ***(www.seaservices.com)***, **Plan4ever** ***(www.plan4ever.com)***, and **Caskets Online** ***(www.casketsonline.com)*** are among the companies that will match consumers with local funeral homes and florists, provide bereavement-support services, and in the case of Caskets Online, even deliver a casket overnight. Sea Services is a maritime funeral provider that will arrange to scatter ashes at sea in compliance with all government regulations at a competitive price.

According to the **Funeral Consumers Alliance,** the average cost of a funeral in the United States is about $4,500, almost three times the rate of funeral services in other countries. Consumers are starting to find discounts and burial alternatives online, however.

If you yearn for an urn...

The newest entry in this new market is FinalThoughts.com, which helps pull together all the details and even allows the deceased to share final wishes with loved ones through e-mail at the hour of death. Simply sign up for the free service now, fill out the appropriate forms, and the company will store them securely until you die.

Online forms help users allocate property, give instructions for the care of pets, and make final arrangements. FinalThoughts.com will soon add new services such as video and audio e-mails, funeral broadcasting, chat rooms, and online support groups.

"With the high cost of funerals, consumers are shopping around, and doing it online is just another way," says Lisa Carlson, executive director of the Funeral Consumers Alliance. "It will only become more prevalent over time."

—Stephanie Izarek

SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 53

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(www.cyberpowerpc.com/cyberpower/dvdprof.html)
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- 700/$ 1685 C7015

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- 750/$ 769 C7043
- 700/$ 675 C7044

Intel CELERON
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- 566/$ 535 C7046
- 533/$ 525 C7047
- 500/$ 499 C7048

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- PS2 Win98 Keyboard & Internet Mouse
- ATX Medium Tower Case w/ 250 Watt UL
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- 56K V.90 Fax Modem w/ Voice
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- ALTEC LASING ACS 33 Subwoofer System
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- 800/$ 1429 C7073
- **750/$1379** C7074
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- 700/$ 1279 C7076

Intel CELERON
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- 566/$ 1139 C7078

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(www.cyberpowerpc.com/cyberpower/homeenter.html)
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- 120-Watt Power Stereo Speakers
- 56K V.90 Fax Modem w/ Voice
- Mitsumi 1.44 MB Floppy Drive
- Windows 98 Keyboard & Internet Mouse
- Medium Tower Case
- One Year On Site Service +$29

AMD K6-2 3D NOW
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- 500/$ 425 C7062

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- 800/$ 709 C7064
- 750/$ 659 C7065
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Intel CELERON
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- PS2 Win98 Keyboard & Internet Mouse
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- 700/$ 796 C7034

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- 566/$ 659 C7036
- 533/$ 649 C7037
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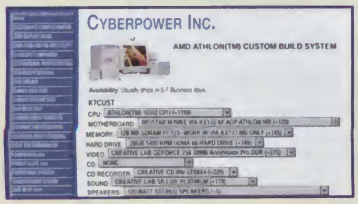

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- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB, 12.0GB, or 18.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot which supports ZV-Port and Card Bus
- > Built-in 10/100 Ethernet Lan Adapter
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
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64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 12.0GB Hard Drive[4]
6X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$2195**

3593

Common Features

- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB, 12.0GB, or 18.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 or 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- > PCMCIA 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 IEEE 1394 Port
- > 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
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Removable 12.0GB Hard Drive[4]
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Common Features

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- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB, 12.0GB, or 18.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 or 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- > PCMCIA 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 IEEE 1394 Port
- > 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Slim Notebook: 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.4"h

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NET NOW

SHOPPING BY SATELLITE

Say you're trolling the local mall for bargains. No need to wander from store to store anymore: A new service will notify you by Web-enabled phone or PDA about specific discounts based on your exact whereabouts at that moment.

ILLUSTRATION BY WILLIAM RIESER

GeePS.com *(www.geeps.com)*, in testing in New York and San Francisco, combines Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) and Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite technologies to deliver a geographically localized shopping service. It will be accessible over the Internet, initially through WAP phones, Palm PDAs, and Windows CE devices. Later you'll be able to use it on Internet-enabled pagers and other wireless devices capable of displaying HTML.

The service will let its users, known as GeePSters, to browse or search, using their cell phones, for coupons and discounts offered by stores in their physical vicinity. A half-mile radius is probably the most effective, but users can adjust that radius to suit their preferences, says Andy Goren, CEO of GeePS.com.

Local merchants within range then alert GeePSters to special deals, or provide other shopping aids such as price comparisons among merchants. The user then goes to a store to get the goods, and the transaction is completed using the phone or PDA, with charges billed to the user's credit card.

The aim of this shopping scenario? "To bring to brick-and-mortar retailers the same advantage that e-commerce brought to e-tailers—dynamic interaction between consumers and retailers," Goren says.

GeePS.com should see a national rollout by September and international availability by year's end. Business travelers are expected to be the first major users, with gadget fans coming in a close second. The company hopes to sign on at least 100,000 merchants this year and 1 million merchants by next year, according to Goren. —*Neil Randall*

Dogging for Jobs

We've got bots that shop and bots that keep us up-to-date; bots that help developers debug and bots that play games. So it was only a matter of time before we'd have bots pounding the pavement for jobs. **FlipDog.com,** which launched in mid-April, crawls the Web weekly to find the latest jobs posted by more than 50,000 companies worldwide.

He digs deep into the Web.

Based on technology from WizBang Labs, FlipDog.com only crawls corporate sites. It filters out multiple-job sites such as **Monster.com** and **HotJobs.com,** with the goals of displaying more "real" jobs (in contrast to recruiter-posted ones) and providing a more complete picture of a company's openings. It parses the crawled pages to create an aggregate job database that users search using a simple, wizard-like interface.

And it's free, for both job seekers and posters. FlipDog.com plans to make money by selling ad spots to large firms with a lot of jobs to fill, as well as keyword-driven spots for smaller firms. HR people post the advertising materials themselves, using a model that president Robert Sherwin refers to as "self-serve advertising." —*Lori Grunin*

VALUE LINE DESKTOPS

A sampling of desktop configurations and pricing based on ads in the May issue of *Computer Shopper*

Compaq $499
500MHz Celeron, 64MB RAM, 4.3GB hard drive, no monitor

Dell $1,199
533MHz Pentium III, 64MB RAM, 13.6GB hard drive, 15" monitor, CD-ROM, 4MB graphics, Ethernet

micronpc.com $1,699
800MHz Pentium III, 64MB RAM, 10GB hard drive, 17" monitor, CD-ROM, 16MB graphics

ABS $2,499
600MHz Pentium III, 256MB RAM, 40GB hard drive, 19" monitor, CD-RW, DVD-ROM, 32MB graphics, TV tuner, digital camera

$500 | $1,000 | $1,500 | $2,000 | $2,500 | $3,000 | $3,500

Acer $899
600MHz Pentium III, 64MB RAM, 10GB hard drive, CD-ROM, Ethernet, no monitor

Gateway $1,499
700MHz Athlon, 128MB RAM, 20GB hard drive, 17" monitor, CD-ROM, 16MB graphics, Ethernet

InterPro $2,099
450MHz Pentium II, 128MB RAM, 9GB hard drive, 19" monitor, CD-ROM, 32MB graphics, SCSI, Zip drive, TV tuner

Micro Pro $3,099
733MHz Pentium III, 256MB RAM, 27.3GB hard drive, CD-ROM, 2MB AGP graphics, SCSI, Ethernet, no monitor

Source: Computer Shopper *Leading Brand Index, May 2000*

THE WEB AT WORK

- 10 percent of workers remain at their desks after business hours to use the Internet.
- 14 percent say they eat lunch at their desks to surf the Web.
- 13 percent say access to the Net makes it difficult to stay focused at work.
- 74 percent say they check their e-mail one to five times a day, while 8 percent visit their in-box more than 15 times a day. Men are twice as likely to check their e-mail more than 15 times a day than are women.

- 4 percent say their supervisor has commented or complained about the amount of time they spend online at work.

Source: Greenfield Online survey, April 2000

PHOTO BY PICTUREQUEST

B2B BUZZ

Hire a Virtual Bill Collector

If you've heard "The check is in the mail" one too many times, you'll want to hear from two new electronic bill presentment and payment (EBPP) services.

Elite.com's WebBill offers small businesses an easy, affordable way to bill clients and customers electronically. Companies use WebBill in conjunction with Elite.com's Timesolv time- and expense-tracking application to send clients automatic e-mails with URLs to a secure Web page. From there, clients can display the invoice, view archives of old bills, and advise the company when and how they'll pay the bill. The online-payment portion of the service, scheduled to launch in July, will cost $1.49 to $1.98 per invoice.

NetLedger, an accounting ASP, is already offering companies a way to pay online by teaming up with **CyberBills**. CyberBills' StatusFactory.com notifies NetLedger customers when their invoices are due, and they can then view them in detail on StatusFactory.com's secure Web site. They can either make a payment immediately or schedule it for a later date. Customers are billed independently for StatusFactory.com—$19.95 a month for up to 30 vendors.

EBPP offers convenience, time savings, and bill consolidation, and puts to rest one of the world's oldest excuses. This is good news if you're the payee, but not so good if you're the payer trying to balance funds coming in against funds going out. But take heart: You can always say your server crashed.

—Donna Tapellini

Yahoo Adds Custom Printing

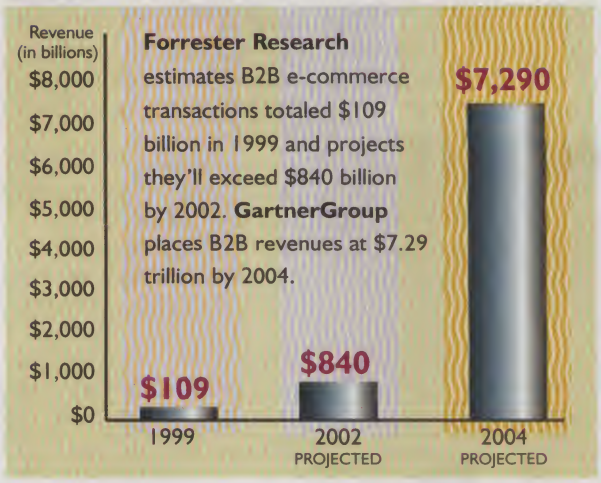
Yahoo Small Business ***(smallbusiness.yahoo.com)*** has added printing and copying services to its site through business-printing portal **iPrint.com.**

The Printing link on the Yahoo Small Business site leads to a page where you can select Business Stationery, Business Forms, or Promotional Items. Select a subcategory, such as business cards or T-shirts, then design, proof, and order products. You can also order color and black-and-white photocopies, and have them collated, bound, stapled, or drilled.

The cost for standard business cards on economy paper ranges from $14.99 for 100 to $39.99 for 2,000. Full-color cards range from $79.99 for 250 to $149.99 for 2,000. New iPrint customers get 100 standard business cards free. Promotional items include the usual mugs, T-shirts, pens, and key chains, as well as boxer shorts, golf balls, and teddy bears. Small bears go for $14.99; you can bag a big bear for $18.99.

—H.L.M.

B2B IS BOOMING



Forrester Research estimates B2B e-commerce transactions totaled $109 billion in 1999 and projects they'll exceed $840 billion by 2002. **GartnerGroup** places B2B revenues at $7.29 trillion by 2004.

Source: Forrester Research and The Gartner Group

Brighter Bidding

"Be careful what you wish for" should be printed in boldface at the top of every auction site, and this includes reverse auctions. Often a company wins a job with a super-low bid, only to lose money on it in the end. The problem is these auctions move at Internet speed and many small businesses don't have the tools to do an accurate profitability analysis that fast.

Maxager Technology ***(www.maxager.com)*** has developed software that lets manufacturers calculate costs and profits in real time while they're bidding for jobs at online exchanges. It uses continuously updated data that takes into account the production time required to manufacture a specific product and uses the information to determine the lowest price at which the company can meet corporate profit goals.

The software is priced at 1 percent of a facility's revenue over a three-year period. Target markets include the electronics, metals, plastics, automotive, rubber, textiles, paper, and semiconductor industries. The company currently has alliances with a number of online exchanges, including **e-Steel, MaterialNet,** and **SupplierMarket.com.**

Those on the buying side of the equation can also add some new weapons to their auction arsenals, courtesy of the sites themselves. PurchaseSource, from **Frictionless Commerce** ***(www.frictionless.com)***, lets shopping, catalog, and auction sites add multiattribute search, selection, and comparison capabilities.

"It's like having the ultimate personal shopper that asks all the most pertinent questions to find out what you're really looking for," says Eric Levin, PurchaseSource's vice president of marketing.

Results are rated on a scale of 1 to 100, and buyers can place three matches side by side in a comparison grid. The software lists all sites, both catalog and auction, and even creates a reverse auction for the product on the buyer's behalf.

—Hailey Lynne McKeefry

ILLUSTRATION BY WILLIAM RIESER

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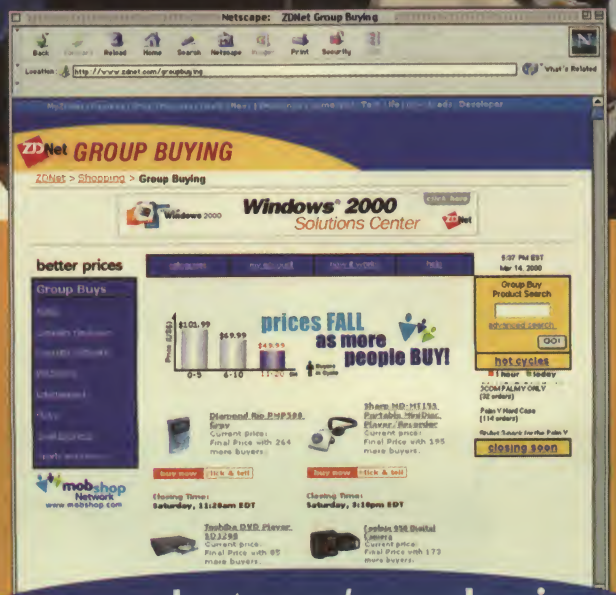
ZDNet's Group Buying, powered by MobShop.



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superpager

Research in Motion has made a name for itself with its line of RIM wireless devices (they're too capable to be considered simple "pagers" anymore), and the latest model, the $499 RIM 957 Wireless Handheld, raises the bar a notch or three. The 5.3-ounce device features a 32-bit Intel 386 processor, 5MB of flash memory, a QWERTY keyboard, and a large backlit screen. It supports the new BlackBerry 2.0 wireless e-mail solution and includes Neomar's WAP-compliant wireless Web browser, as well as a collection of productivity apps. And the great thing about the RIM 957 is that it's connected to the wireless network 24/7, which means you never have to dial in.

RIM 957 Wireless Handheld
Research in Motion
Waterloo, ON, Canada; 519-888-7465
www.rim.net

poo-chi pet

Tiger Electronics, a subsidiary of Hasbro and the brain trust behind the Furby phenomenon, strikes again with Poo-Chi, a $30 robotic dog that fits in the palm of your hand. The toy sings six different songs, plays games, and has animated head, ears, legs, mouth, and tail. He can stand, sit, and dance on his tiptoes, and he responds to outside conditions such as your touch. Like Tamagotchi and other interactive toys, Poo-Chi needs "love" and "food," and his biorhythmic technology creates emotional responses that change with his environment.

Tiger Poo-Chi
Tiger Electronics
Vernon Hills, IL; 847-913-8100
www.tigertoys.com

invincible input

Over the years, you've probably heard about the nasty consequences of spilling coffee on your computer's keyboard. Worry no more: The $129 bendable, rubberized Flexboard from Man & Machine is built to withstand just about anything you can pour on it. Hold it under running water to wash it off, then roll it up for safekeeping. The keys are a little harder to press, as they're sealed inside the rubber cover, but the Flexboard can survive in industrial and other high-impact environments. Not tough enough? A more robust $229 version is designed to withstand industrial-strength chemicals.

Man & Machine Flexboard
Man & Machine
Landover, MD; 301-341-4900
www.man-machine.com

movie maker

Advanced home-movie junkies and aspiring filmmakers will want to take Sony's new $3,199 **DCR-VX2000** digital video camera out for a spin. The DCR-VX2000 features a new three-chip CCD imaging system that records up to 530 lines of horizontal resolution, while the SuperHAD progressive-scan technology provides a low signal-to-noise ratio. (In other words, your money buys you a superior picture.) The camera also features a 2.5-inch color LCD monitor, as well as a 180,000-pixel color viewfinder. It accepts Sony's Memory Stick flash-memory modules for culling still images from your video.

Sony DCR-VX2000
Sony Electronics Corp.
Park Ridge, NJ; 800-352-7669
www.sel.sony.com

what a rush!

Philips recently updated its Rush portable digital music player with a new $299 64MB version that can store up to 2 hours of music. Unlike the $199 32MB version, the new **Rush 64MB** features a USB port, allowing users to swiftly shuttle audio files into the device. It comes bundled with a car adapter that lets you play songs on the road, plus a handful of other accessories, including headphones, a USB connector, and a carrying pouch.

Philips Rush 64MB
Philips Electronics
New York, NY; 800-326-6586
www.philips.com

the silver screen

With its cool metallic finish and rounded edges, Aiwa's $400 **VX-S135** looks more like a miniature spaceship than a kitchen-counter TV/VCR combo. Featuring a 13-inch TV tube, a built-in VCR, and side-firing high-fidelity stereo speakers, the VX-S135 is much more than a toy. It provides three A/V inputs on front and back for connecting camcorders or external VCRs, and a one-touch record feature lets you tape a favorite program on the spot. The included remote control gives you access to even more advanced features.

Aiwa VX-S135
Aiwa America
Mahwah, NJ; 800-289-2492
www.aiwa.com

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AMD K6-2™ Processor at 500 MHz — $509 A1701

AMD K6-2 3D™ Now Processor		
550 MHz	$539	A1702
AMD Athlon™ Processor		
700 MHz	$679	A1703
750 MHz	$709	A1704
800 MHz	$769	A1705
850 MHz	$859	A1706
900 MHz	$969	A1707
950 MHz	$1,139	A1708
1000 MHz	$1,279	A1709

AMD K6-2™ Processor at 550 MHz — $629 A2702

AMD K6-2 3D™ Now Processor		
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AMD Athlon™ Processor		
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750 MHz	$799	A2704
800 MHz	$859	A2705
850 MHz	$949	A2706
900 MHz	$1,059	A2707
950 MHz	$1,229	A2708
1000 MHz	$1,379	A2709

AMD Athlon™ Processor at 700 MHz — $799 A3704

AMD Duron™ Processor		
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AMD Athlon™ Processor		
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850 MHz	$979	A3707
900 MHz	$1,089	A3708
950 MHz	$1,259	A3709
1000 MHz	$1,399	A3710

AMD Duron™ Processor at 700 MHz — $919 A4703

AMD Duron™ Processor		
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650 MHz	$879	A4702
AMD Athlon™ Processor		
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750 MHz	$1,019	A4705
800 MHz	$1,079	A4706
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D98A $295

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D73P $185

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AMD Athlon™ Processor at 850 MHz — $999 A5704

700 MHz	$819	A5701
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900 MHz	$1,109	A5705
950 MHz	$1,279	A5706
1000 MHz	$1,509	A5707

AMD Athlon™ Processor at 800 MHz — $1,159 A6703

700 MHz	$1,069	A6701
750 MHz	$1,099	A6702
850 MHz	$1,249	A6704
900 MHz	$1,359	A6705
950 MHz	$1,529	A6706
1000 MHz	$1,759	A6707

AMD Athlon™ Processor at 950 MHz — $1,799 A7706

700 MHz	$1,339	A7701
750 MHz	$1,369	A7702
800 MHz	$1,429	A7703
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AMD Athlon processor

nVIDIA graphics

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Best Buy

Mr. Bill O'Brien, January 2000

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Mr. Mitt Jones, November 1999

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733 MHz	$719	S2707
750 MHz	$809	S2708
800 MHz	$869	S2709
850 MHz	$1,029	S2710
Intel Celeron® Processor		
500 MHz	$529	S2701
566 MHz	$549	S2703
600 MHz	$579	S2704

Pentium® III Coppermine at 700 MHz $929 S3706

Intel Pentium® III Coppermine Processor		
667 MHz	$869	S3705
733 MHz	$939	S3707
750 MHz	$1,029	S3708
800 MHz	$1,079	S3709
850 MHz	$1,249	S3710
Intel Celeron® Processor		
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MS9000

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Pentium® III Coppermine at 700 MHz $839 S4706

Intel Pentium® III Coppermine Processor		
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750 MHz	$949	S4708
800 MHz	$999	S4709
850 MHz	$1,169	S4710
Intel Celeron® Processor		
500 MHz	$669	S4701
533 MHz	$679	S4702
566 MHz	$689	S4703
600 MHz	$709	S4704

Pentium® III Coppermine at 667 MHz $919 S5705

Intel Pentium® III Coppermine Processor		
700 MHz	$979	S5706
733 MHz	$989	S5707
750 MHz	$1,079	S5708
800 MHz	$1,139	S5709
850 MHz	$1,299	S5710
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- SoundBlaster Live Value
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- Multimedia Windows 98 Keyboard
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Intel Celeron® Processor at 600 MHz $999 S6704

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733 MHz	$1,139	S6707
750 MHz	$1,239	S6708
800 MHz	$1,289	S6709
850 MHz	$1,459	S6710
Intel Celeron® Processor		
500 MHz	$959	S6701
533 MHz	$969	S6702
566 MHz	$979	S6703

Pentium® III Coppermine at 667 MHz $1,269 S7705

Intel Pentium® III Coppermine Processor		
700 MHz	$1,319	S7706
733 MHz	$1,329	S7707
750 MHz	$1,429	S7708
800 MHz	$1,479	S7709
850 MHz	$1,649	S7710
Intel Celeron® Processor		
500 MHz	$1,149	S7701
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HOT GEAR

watching you

Whether for security or entertainment, X10.com's $79.99 **XCam2** wireless color video camera kit has plenty of applications. XCam2, which marries a palm-size analog camera to a VideoSender broadcast system, allows you to transmit visual images and sound wirelessly to any television in your home, up to 100 feet away. The system uses the 2.4GHz frequency range, which is less cluttered than the 900MHz frequency used by many cordless phones, resulting in a clearer, more powerful signal.

X10.com XCam2
X10.com
Seattle, WA; 800-675-3044
x10.com

insta-net

Increase the productivity—or at least the connectivity—in any conference room with **NetStation** portable Ethernet hubs from Xircom. The devices set up easily, providing an instant network of notebook users who connect to one of its retractable Ethernet cables. The $499 four-port model 4100 and $799 eight-port model 8100 feature a built-in 10/100Mbps Ethernet hub and support half or full duplex at both speeds. You can daisy-chain up to three NetStation 8100s to support a total of 24 users.

Xircom NetStation 4100 and 8100
Xircom
Thousand Oaks, CA; 800-438-4526
www.xircom.com/netstation

hi-fi, low profile

Apartment dwellers and others who value the fusion of high-fidelity audio and space-saving design will appreciate the $599 **VH-600** bookshelf stereo system from Kenwood. Measuring only 4 inches high, the VH-600 features a built-in tuner, a 40-watt amplifier, and a slot-fed CD player. It's designed to operate in either a horizontal or vertical placement, and features a gravity sensor that automatically adjusts the blue-backlit digital display for either orientation. The unit ships with dual two-way speakers, and you can add an optional $400 MiniDisc deck or a $250 cassette deck.

Kenwood VH-600
Kenwood USA Corp.
Long Beach, CA; 800-536-9663
www.kenwoodusa.com

SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 68

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intel inside pentium®III

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DELL™ DIMENSION™ L

Affordable Desktop

- Intel® Celeron® Processor at 500MHz
- 32MB SDRAM (up to 512MB)
- 7.5GB[5] Ultra ATA HD (up to 20GB[5])
- 15" (13.8" vis) E550 Monitor
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics, 48X Max CD-ROM
- SB 64V Integrated Sound
- Intel® 10/100 Ethernet Controller
- MS® Windows® 98 & MS® Works Suite 2000 and Norton® AntiVirus™ 2000
- 3-Yr Ltd. Warranty[2], 1-Yr NBD On-site Service[3]

$699 E•VALUE CODE 05816-590606

BUSINESS LEASE: $19/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

DELL™ DIMENSION™ L

Affordable Desktop

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 667MHz
- 32MB SDRAM (up to 512MB)
- 7.5GB[5] Ultra ATA HD (up to 20GB[5])
- 15" (13.8" vis) E550 Monitor
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics, 48X Max CD-ROM
- SB 64V Integrated Sound and PC Speakers
- Intel® 10/100 Ethernet Controller
- MS® Windows® 98 & MS® Works Suite 2000 and Norton® AntiVirus™ 2000
- 3-Yr Ltd. Warranty[2], 1-Yr NBD On-site Service[3]

$799 E•VALUE CODE 05816-590607

BUSINESS LEASE: $22/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

DELL™ DIMENSION™ XPS T

Affordable Desktop Pentium® III Performance

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 700MHz
- 64MB SDRAM (up to 768MB)
- 10GB[5] Ultra HD (up to 40GB[5])
- 17" (16.0" vis) E770 Monitor
- 16MB ATI Graphics Card, 48X Max CD-ROM
- Premium Sound Card and harman/kardon Speakers
- 3Com® 3C905C-TXM 10/100 NIC
- MS® Windows® 98 & Office 2000 Small Business
- 3-Yr Ltd. Warranty[2], 1-Yr NBD On-site Service[3]

$1199 E•VALUE CODE 05816-590611

BUSINESS LEASE: $33/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Years 2 & 3 NBD On-site Service[3], add $99

DELL™ OPTIPLEX™ GX110

Network-Optimized Managed PC

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 667EB MHz
- 64MB SDRAM at 100MHz (up to 512MB)
- 7.5GB[5] SMART II Ultra ATA HD (up to 30GB[5])
- 15" (13.8" vis) E550 Monitor (up to Flat Panel)
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics
- Integrated 3Com® 10/100 NIC
- NEW Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Professional
- OptiFrame™ Small Form Factor Tool-less Chassis
- 3-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service[3]

$999 E•VALUE CODE 05816-390609

BUSINESS LEASE: $28/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

DELL™ OPTIPLEX™ GX200

NEW — Network-Optimized Managed PC

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 733EB MHz
- 128MB RDRAM (up to 512MB)
- 10GB[5] SMART II Ultra ATA HD (up to 30GB[5])
- 15" (13.8" vis) E550 Monitor (up to Flat Panel)
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics
- 48X Max Variable CD-ROM
- Integrated 3Com® 10/100 NIC
- NEW Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Professional
- OptiFrame™ Mini-Tower Tool-less Chassis
- 3-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service[3]

$1599 E•VALUE CODE 05816-390615a

BUSINESS LEASE: $44/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

DELL™ PRECISION™ 220

Advanced Performance Workstation

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 733MHz (up to 866MHz)
- Dual Processor Capable
- 64MB PC600 RDRAM (up to 512MB)
- 20.4GB[5] 7200 RPM EIDE HD (up to 36GB[5] 10K SCSI)
- 17" (16.0" vis) M781 Monitor
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- Integrated NIC & Sound; 48X Max CD-ROM
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- 7x24 Dedicated Workstation Phone Tech Support

$1989 E•VALUE CODE 05816-490619a

BUSINESS LEASE: $55/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

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Dell™ Latitude™ Notebook

Dell™ PowerEdge™ Server

Dell™ PowerEdge™ Server

DELL™ NOTEBOOKS & SERVERS:

DELL™ LATITUDE™ CPt

Network-Optimized Notebook

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 450MHz
- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
- 32MB SDRAM, 6.0GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Modular 24X Max CD-ROM/Floppy Drive
- MS® Windows® 98, Second Edition
- Li-Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
- Dual Pointing – Touchpad and Pointing Stick
- Internal 56K Capable[6] SoftModem
- 1-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service[3]

$1499 E•VALUE CODE 05817-790614

BUSINESS LEASE: $41/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Upgrade to 14.1" Active Matrix Display, add $250

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 3800

NEW — Design and Affordability Notebook

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 450MHz
- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
- 32MB SDRAM, 4.8GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Modular 24X Max Variable CD-ROM
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI RAGE Mobility™-P 3D Video
- NEW Microsoft® Works Suite 2000
- Microsoft® Windows® 98, Second Edition
- 1-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service[3]

$1399 E•VALUE CODE 05817-890613

BUSINESS LEASE: $39/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- 3-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service[3], add $149

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 5000

Performance and Mobility Notebook

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 500MHz
- 15" XGA Active Matrix Display
- 32MB SDRAM, 6.0GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Modular 24X Max Variable CD-ROM/Floppy Drive
- 2X AGP 4MB ATI RAGE Mobility™-P 3D Video
- 52WHr Lithium Ion Battery
- Microsoft® Office 2000 Small Business
- Microsoft® Windows® 98, Second Edition
- 3-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service[3]

$1899 E•VALUE CODE 05817-890618

BUSINESS LEASE: $52/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 600MHz, add $150

DELL™ POWEREDGE™ 1300

Affordable Entry Level Server

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 600MHz (up to 800MHz)
- Dual Processor/RAID Capable
- 64MB 100MHz ECC SDRAM (up to 1GB)
- 9GB[5] 7200 RPM Ultra-2/LVD SCSI HD (up to 36GB[5])
- 108GB Internal Storage Capacity
- NIC & Integrated SCSI Controllers; 40X Max CD-ROM
- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management Solutions
- 3-Yr NBD On-site Service[3]; 7x24 Phone Support

$1599 E•VALUE CODE 05817-290615

BUSINESS LEASE: $44/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Small Business Upgrade Bundle, add $1897
- Second Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 600MHz, add $599

DELL™ POWEREDGE™ 2400

Workgroup Server

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 600MHz (up to 866MHz)
- Dual Processor Capable
- 64MB 133MHz ECC SDRAM (up to 2GB)
- 9GB[5] 7200 RPM Ultra-2/LVD SCSI HD (up to 36GB[5])
- Up to 180GB Hot-swappable Internal Storage Capacity
- Embedded Single-channel RAID with 64MB Cache
- Integrated NIC/SCSI Controllers; 40X Max CD-ROM
- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management Solutions
- 3-Yr NBD On-site Service[3]; 7x24 Phone Support

$2799 E•VALUE CODE 05817-290627

BUSINESS LEASE: $77/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Red Hat® Linux™ 6.2, add $149

DELL™ POWEREDGE™ 2450

NEW — Ultra-Slim (2U) Rack-Optimized Server

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 600MHz (up to 733MHz)
- Dual Processor Capable
- 128MB 133MHz ECC SDRAM (up to 2GB)
- 9GB[5] 10K RPM Ultra3 SCSI HD (up to 18GB[5] 10K)
- Up to 91GB Hot-swappable Internal Storage Capacity
- Integrated NIC/SCSI Controllers; 24X Max CD-ROM
- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management Solutions
- 3-Yr NBD On-site Service[3]; 7x24 Phone Support

$3799 E•VALUE CODE 05817-290637

BUSINESS LEASE: $105/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Single-channel RAID with 64MB Cache, add $299
- Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Server, add $799

intel inside pentium®III

Dell recommends Windows 2000 Professional for business.

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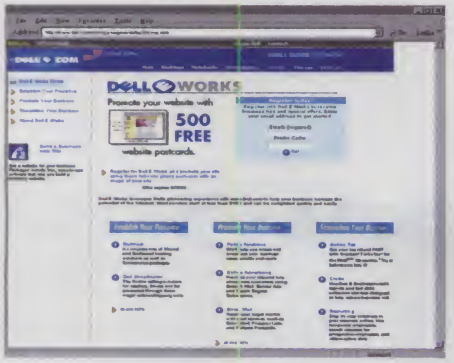
Population of your town: 534,000. Population of World Wide Web: estimated at 300,000,000 (and counting). Maybe you should move your business online. Our hosting packages are not only an incredible deal, but they're supported by Dell™ PowerEdge™ servers and PowerApp™ server appliances featuring Intel® Pentium® III processors. (And we know about the importance of network uptime.) DellEWorks.com offers everything from basic hosting to full-blown e-commerce solutions on dedicated servers. And we have a whole slew of tools to help you build, maintain, and promote your site. With DellEWorks.com, you'll get your e-business up in no time. (It's nice to make money at 3 a.m.)



intel inside pentium®III

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- Phone, E-mail and Website Technical Support
- 30-day Money-back Guarantee[37]
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E-COMMERCE WEBHOSTING SOLUTION

DellHost™ E-2200

- 200MB Storage Capacity
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- Real Audio/Real Video G2 (5 streams)
- Site Performance and Traffic Reporting
- 99.9% Uptime Guarantee[37]
- Phone, E-mail and Website Technical Support

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- 2 X 10/100 Embedded NIC
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- Dedicated 21GB[5] Monthly Transfer (Metered)
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HOT GEAR

elph in hand

Canon made a big splash with a minuscule camera when it introduced the film-based Elph a few years ago, and its digital Elphs are equally handy. Now, Canon goes high-res with the world's smallest and lightest 2.1-megapixel camera with zoom lens, the $599 S100 Digital Elph. The S100 features a 2x optical and 4x digital zoom, and includes a rechargeable lithium-ion battery and an 8MB CompactFlash memory card. You can go macro for extreme close-ups and upload your shots using the camera's USB port.

Canon S100 Digital Elph
Canon U.S.A.
Lake Success, NY; 800-652-2666
www.usa.canon.com

turn on your photos

Weave Innovations has developed a novel way for you to share your pictures with far-flung loved ones: the Internet-based StoryBox Network, for which Kodak will be the first company to market hardware devices. Kodak's $249 StoryBox is a 6x4.3-inch LCD panel with a built-in internal modem that allows you to send and receive digital images across the Internet and display them in your home. You can also subscribe to a number of information services or to museums' digital-image catalogs. StoryBox carries with it a monthly fee ranging from $2 to $10, depending on the services you choose.

Kodak StoryBox
Eastman Kodak Co.
Rochester, NY; 800-242-2424
www.kodak.com/go/storybox

watchword

Tired of entering passwords for e-mail or access to Web sites? The net.invader watch from Swiss watch giant Swatch can help cut down on those carpal-tunnel-inducing keystrokes, thanks to its chip that holds up to 10 different username and password combinations. The device ships with a special mouse pad that receives this information wirelessly from the watch whenever you use your mouse, transmitting usernames and passwords to your PC over a USB cable. Company reps expect the watches will sell for around $100.

Swatch net.invader
Swatch
Weehawken, NJ; 800-937-9282
www.swatch.com

ZDNet Price It!™	code
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Canon S100 Digital Elph	33691
Kenwood VH-600	33692
Kodak StoryBox	33693
Man & Machine Flexboard	33694
Philips Rush 64MB	33696
RIM 957 Wireless Handheld	33695
Sony DCR-VX2000	33697
Swatch net.invader	33698
Tiger Poo-Chi	33699
X10.com XCam2	33700
Xircom NetStation 4100	33701
Xircom NetStation 8100	33702

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

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Imagine burning CDs at 12X. Cool, huh? Just the spark. Rewrite at up to 4X. And read CDs at up to 32X.

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It's the perfect drive for archiving images, mastering new software, creating multimedia or custom audio discs. A CD solution of exceptional quality and performance. Imagine what it can do for you.

Choose the drive that burns away every other one in its class — the PlexWriter 12/4/32, the latest star from the award-winning developer Plextor®.

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PCWORLD WORLD CLASS — UltraPlex 40max July 1999

WINLIST 1999 — PlexWriter 8/20 June 1999

PlexWriter 8/4/32 December 1999

PlexWriter 8/20 May 1999

PlexWriter 8/20 February 1999

MEDIA — PlexWriter 8/20 February 1999

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JULY 2000

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Epson Stylus Photo 870

HARDWARE

Epson Stylus Photo 870

Every new photo inkjet printer that comes out seems to be better than the one before it. The Epson Stylus 870 continues this trend. Although its $299 price places the Stylus 870 on the high end of the inkjet category, its amazing image quality and fade-resistant inks give you incredible-looking prints that will last longer than traditional lab-processed photos. **(See review on p. 114.)**

Takeaway: The perfect addition to any digital darkroom

Epson America • ***www.epson.com*** • 800-463-7766

Nikon Coolpix 800

Once again, Nikon extends its tradition for top-quality photographic components to the digital realm. The new $501 Coolpix 800 digital camera not only has a surprisingly inexpensive price, but its lightweight body and great-looking images combine to make this 2-megapixel camera a must-buy. **(See feature on p. 168.)**

Takeaway: The best 2-megapixel camera you can buy

Nikon • ***www.nikonusa.com*** • 800-526-4566

Nikon Coolpix 800

GAMES

Superbike 2000

Test your driving skills on this two-wheeled version of Formula 1 racing. With 20 champion riders, 13 international tracks, and six real-world cycles, Superbike 2000 delivers all the heart-pumping thrills of motorcycle racing with none of the risks. **(See review on p. 146.)**

Takeaway: This motorcycle racing sim leaves the competition in the dust.

EA Sports • ***www.easports.com*** • 800-245-4525

Superbike 2000

RECENT WINNERS

DESKTOPS

ABS Performance Alpha
(May) ABS combines top-shelf components and a reasonable price to create a high-performance system that is also high on value. Selling for $2,399 direct, this 733MHz Pentium III-based PC comes with both DVD-ROM and CD-RW drives, a 19-inch monitor, and a state-of-the-art sound system.
ABS Computer Technologies • ***www.buyabs.com*** • 800-876-8088

CyberMax Enthusiast 3 K7-850
(June) With its 850MHz AMD Athlon processor, 128MB of memory, and a host of quality components—including a GeForce 256-based graphics card, 19-inch monitor, and four-channel sound system—CyberMax's $1,999-direct Enthusiast 3 K7-850 gives you value to spare. Factor in its generous software bundle, and you'll wish it came with some spare time, too.
CyberMax Computer • ***www.cybermaxpc.com*** • 888-835-2402

Systemax Excite PJM-800A
(May) It boasts the same feature set as much more expensive systems, but this 800MHz Athlon-based PC costs only $2,049 direct. The Excite lives up to its name with an nVidia GeForce-based graphics card with 32MB of DDR-SDRAM, an 8x CD-RW drive, and a five-piece speaker system.
Systemax • ***www.systemaxpc.com*** • 800-875-8430

MOBILE

Creative Nomad II
(June) With all the features of its predecessor, including a built-in FM tuner, a silvery case, and great audio quality, as well as a few of its own innovations—such as a handheld remote, USB connectivity, and bass-enhanced headphones—the $329 Nomad II continues to rock the MP3-player market.
Creative Labs • ***www.creative.com*** • 800-998-5227

Systemax SW15-T650
(May) This 8.6-pound desktop-replacement notebook scores a knockout for budget-conscious buyers looking for a performance champion in a trim case. In addition to its 650MHz Pentium III processor, 128MB of SDRAM, 18GB hard drive, 3D-capable ATI Mobility-P graphics, and 15.1-inch XGA display, the Systemax offers a low direct price of $3,099.
Systemax • ***www.systemaxpc.com*** • 800-875-8430

HARDWARE

Canon PowerShot S20
(June) Canon's PowerShot S20 aims to please even the most fickle digital photographer with a superb combination of price and performance. The $799 3-megapixel camera boasts image quality rivaling that of a 35mm model, and it packs a wide range of advanced features into a shirt-pocket form factor.
Canon U.S.A. • ***www.powershot.com*** • 800-652-2666

Hercules 3D Prophet DDR-DVI
(June) Gamers demand the fastest frame rates possible, and that's what you get with the $254 Hercules 3D Prophet DDR-DVI. Loaded with 32MB of DDR SDRAM, composite and S-video outputs, and a built-in DVI interface for digital displays, the 3D Prophet DDR-DVI is as flexible as it is fast.
Hercules • ***www.hercules.com*** • 877-484-5536

HP DeskJet 952C
(June) Hewlett-Packard's DeskJet 952C ranks among the best inkjet printers we've seen. Output quality for color and gray-scale photos is outstanding, as is its ability to print documents

containing a mix of graphics and text. Although the 952C's $300 price is higher than average for the category, users looking for the best print quality available should settle for nothing less.
Hewlett-Packard Co. • ***www.hp.com*** • 800-722-6538

Kyocera Samurai 2100DG
(May) This new 2.14-megapixel digicam represents a whole new way to look at digital photography. The $799 Samurai boasts a unique, lightweight design and conveniently placed features that are a snap to use. With its excellent image quality and 4x optical zoom, you'll never want to put it down.
Kyocera Optics • ***www.kyocera.com*** • 732-560-0060

Netgear Phoneline 10X
(May) If you're looking for an easy way to network two or more home PCs, the $53 (single-card price) Netgear Phoneline 10X

SOFTWARE

Cakewalk Pro Audio 9

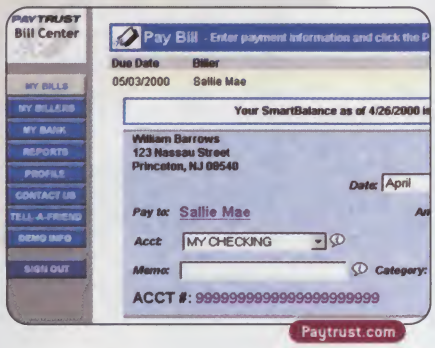
Cakewalk has long been the leading choice for PC MIDI production. But the $379 version 9 adds some compelling features of its own, including new technology that dramatically improves response time when making changes during playback, as well as support for MP3, RealNetworks' G2, and Windows Streaming Media audio formats. **(See review on p. 144.)**
Takeaway: Pure music to any MIDI musician's ears
Twelve Tone Systems • ***www.cakewalk.com*** • 800-234-1171

MusicMatch Jukebox 5.0

A first-rate MP3 player and recorder, the latest downloadable version of MusicMatch adds support for Internet radio stations and CD burning. A powerful, versatile, and free program that belongs on any music lover's desktop. **(See review on p. 140.)**
Takeaway: Must-have software for MP3 fans
MusicMatch • ***www.musicmatch.com*** • 858-385-1300

Paytrust.com

If you're tired of the monthly ritual of writing checks and licking stamps, Paytrust's elegantly designed Web site and reliable service could be the cure. Fully insured and compatible with most personal-finance software packages, Paytrust lets you put your money where your mouse is.
(See feature on p. 174.)
Takeaway: A great way to receive and pay bills online
Paytrust • ***www.paytrust.com*** • 877-729-8787



Paytrust.com

Acer TravelMate 602TER

MOBILE

Acer TravelMate 602TER

This $2,799 650MHz Pentium III SpeedStep notebook offers mobile executives nearly 5 hours of battery life in performance mode, as well as 128MB of RAM, a CD-RW drive, 8MB of graphics memory, and a 13.3-inch XGA display in a trim 5.25-pound magnesium-alloy case. Innovative in every way. **(See review on p. 128.)**
Takeaway: A sleek notebook for traveling professionals
Acer America Corp. • ***www.acer.com*** • 800-733-2237

Quantex W-1511

A desktop-replacement system with a 650MHz Pentium III processor, a 15-inch XGA display, a 12GB hard drive, and DVD, the $2,749 Quantex W-1511 packs a lot into its 7.6-pound case. Although it doesn't reap much benefit from Intel's SpeedStep power-management technology, the W-1511's battery life of 3 hours and 25 minutes in maximum-performance mode is still respectable. **(See feature on p. 154.)**
Takeaway: Power and price combine to make this desktop-replacement notebook a winner.
Quantex Microsystems • ***www.quantex.com*** • 800-346-6685

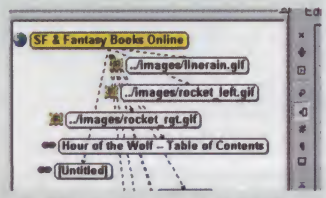
10Mbps networking kit is tough to beat. Netgear even goes the extra mile by offering an excellent support policy and extensive connectivity options.
Netgear • ***www.netgearinc.com*** • 888-638-4327

Samsung SyncMaster 570p Plus
(June) Samsung's $1,139 SyncMaster 570p Plus is not your everyday 15-inch flat-panel display. With built-in stereo speakers, a picture-in-picture function, composite and S-Video inputs, and the ability to pivot between landscape and portrait modes, the 570p Plus gives you lots of extras for about as much as you'd pay for other TFTs.
Samsung Electronics • ***www.samsungmonitor.com*** • 800-726-7864

SOFTWARE

AAA Map'n'Go 5.0
(May) Road warriors can travel first-class with AAA Map'n'Go 5.0 trip-planning software. In addition to letting you route door-to-door trips across country or across town, this $25 program gives you access to the wealth of touring information from the complete set of AAA guidebooks.
DeLorme • ***www.mapngo.com*** • 800-452-5931

HomeSite 4.5
(June) For Web designers who still believe that creating a good site means working from the source code up, Allaire's HomeSite offers one of the most powerful HTML programs this side of cyberspace. It even anticipates the tags you type, lets you



choose parameters on the fly, and closes your tags for you.
Allaire Corp. • ***www.allaire.com*** • 888-939-2545

Norton Internet Security 2000
(May) The most comprehensive personal security solution available, this suite provides a firewall, virus checker, and parental-control program all in one integrated package. The best news: All this peace of mind can be yours for under $60.
Symantec • ***www.symantec.com*** • 800-441-7234

Ulead Cool 3D 3.0
(June) Ulead's aptly named software boasts dazzling animation effects and excellent import and export capabilities, all tied together with an amazingly simple interface. The perfect pick for Web designers looking to add stunning animated graphics with no hassles.
Ulead Systems • ***www.ulead.com*** • 800-858-5323

GAMES

Rainbow Six: Rogue Spear
(May) Tom Clancy's elite counterterrorist squad Rainbow Six returns to active duty in this eagerly awaited sequel to the acclaimed 1998 action-strategy game. In addition to a new series of exciting missions, the game incorporates improvements such as a new replay feature, better team AI, a mission editor, and a wide selection of weapons.
Red Storm Entertainment • ***www.redstorm.com*** • 919-460-1776

The Sims
(June) SimCity creator Will Wright takes the Sim concept to a whole 'nother level—the micromanagement of virtual people known as (what else?) the Sims. Although making sure your Sims eat, bathe, work, and socialize may not sound like much fun, wait until you try it. You don't even need a God complex to love it, though it helps.
Maxis/Electronic Arts • ***www.ea.com*** • 800-245-4525

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JOHN BLACKFORD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Twilight of the Microprocessor?

Forget it! Smart devices will prosper, but so will PCs.

FOR MANY OF US WHO'VE WATCHED SOARING PC POWER with satisfaction, recent talk about intelligent appliances is unsettling. We want more power, not less! We will get it, too, since the basic PC's power will grow for the foreseeable future. But there's no denying the rising tide of Web-browsing cell phones, set-top boxes, super-PDAs, game consoles, and embedded devices linked to the Internet. This will affect PC sales. The upstarts are putting the computer industry in the unfamiliar position of being the old order rocked by change. There have been interesting defections: Noting that microprocessors are "fast enough" for general applications, chip guru Michael Slater (founder of the highly regarded *Microprocessor Report* and long-time columnist for *Computer Shopper*) is shifting his column (and his career) toward Internet appliances.

The *Microprocessor Report* even speculated (April 2000) that programmable logic devices (PLDs) represent a key long-term threat to microprocessor dominance, with their greater flexibility, efficiency, and potential low cost—especially in the market for intelligent devices.

Facing challenges to microprocessors, even software behemoth Microsoft—branded part of the old order by its antitrust suit—is trying to lighten up. After designing versions of Windows for handhelds, it took aim at the game-console market, promising one under its own label, called the X-Box.

A PC IN CONSOLE'S CLOTHING

Microsoft will contract out manufacturing of the X-Box and plans no profit from the unit, but it will collect royalties on every game sold and expects to design about 30 percent of the titles itself. In effect, the company will give away razors to sell (and license) razor blades.

X-Box is important to the PC industry as a sealed-box PC under Microsoft's full control. The unit will use a tweaked Intel processor running faster than 600MHz, plus an awesome nVidia graphics engine. While 600MHz will be modest when X-Box ships in early 2002 (forget Microsoft's promised late-2001 date), the graphics will be generations ahead of nVidia's current GeForce 256.

The X-Box will put PC-standard parts into the high-volume console-gaming space. Game-software development will be similar to that for PCs, though Microsoft will be able to lock out unauthorized titles—possibly by using digital certificates like those for its software on the Internet.

The unit will include an 8GB hard drive, but games will boot directly from an included DVD player that can also play movies. Boot time will be short, since the standard Windows graphical interface won't be included. With the built-in Ethernet connection, multiplayer gaming will be possible via high-speed Web or LAN links using cable, DSL, or NICs.

While Web browsing and e-mail are obvious extensions, there's no glaring reason why Microsoft couldn't offer applications, too. Given the capacity of DVD, Microsoft could place Windows ME and Microsoft Works on a single, bootable disc—with user data saved to hard disk.

This canny move on Microsoft's part has Trojan-horse potential. By extending PC architecture to the console market, Microsoft gets to introduce a proprietary system that runs only Microsoft-authorized software. Sales will be in the millions. With no need for hardware profit, Microsoft has great flexibility in evolving the unit's target market. (Sony, too, takes the no-hardware-profit approach with Playstation 2.)

Imagine the cries of bloody murder had Microsoft announced plans to offer X-Box in direct competition with existing PCs, rather than just consoles. Yet here it comes, a Microsoft-controlled PC architecture for a growing market. If users do demand PC applications, the likes of Corel and Lotus will have to pay royalties for the privilege of running on the system.

Microsoft gets its usual marketing edge comparing its vaporware with Sony's actual Playstation 2: X-Box will have a 600MHz-plus CPU, 300MHz graphics, 64MB of RAM, 4x DVD, an 8GB hard drive, USB, and 10/100 Ethernet; Playstation 2 does have a 300MHz CPU, 150MHz graphics, 32MB of RAM, 4x DVD, USB, IEEE 1394 (FireWire), and PC Card.

Sony is well-entrenched in the console market, while Microsoft is not. Still, Sony may have trouble boosting graphics as fast as Microsoft can, since nVidia is arguably the best in the business. If nothing else, Microsoft's move may trump any Sony attempt to shift consoles to the PC *space*, though the real battle is for control of the evolving home-entertainment center.

As before, market changes are pulling forth a dizzying array of new devices, but PC architecture seems destined to remain the hub through which all else interconnects. *john_blackford@zdnet.com*

ILLUSTRATION BY CAMPBELL LAIRD

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JOHN DVORAK

Protect Yourself Against the Big One

The mother of all computer viruses is going to strike one of these days. Don't get caught unprotected.

NOW THAT THE ILOVEYOU WORM HAS COME AND gone, many of us Californians are likening the computer virus/worm phenomenon to earthquakes. You can't really predict them, and they can be very destructive to those who aren't prepared. All that's missing is the discussion of the Big One. In California we always talk about the Big One. This is the 9.0 (or higher!) quake we believe is bound to occur in our lifetimes. Although most of California is built to "earthquake country" standards, nobody expects it will resist the destructive force of the Big One.

We need to apply the concept of the Big One to computer viruses and worms. All we've experienced so far is the equivalent of tremblers and small quakes. The recent ILOVEYOU worm was like a small quake in its destructive power and a moderate quake with its aftershocks. Aftershocks are the code variants that show up immediately after the first attack—just like earthquake aftershocks. They can keep coming for years.

There's another phenomenon common with earthquakes called foreshocks. These smaller quakes precede a big quake, or the Big One. It's likely all these virus and worm attacks are leading to the Big One of computer attacks. This is the one we must address because it represents the future.

History has to record a Big One for people to take the idea seriously. San Francisco's earthquake of 1916 was a Big One. The massive 1964 Alaskan quake was a Big One. But the only thing that came close to a Big One in computer worms and viruses was the Morris Worm that brought down the Internet some years ago. It was an accidental release of a test worm that got out of control. The reason it was so destructive is that it was written by an expert.

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM WEBB

I expect to see that sort of thing in the near future: an expertly crafted killer virus/worm of untold destructive capability—the Big One. It may take down the Internet or ruin millions of computers and peripherals. I suspect it would perform every damaging measure it could without prejudice.

The foreshocks we've seen have shown various vulnerabilities. Very little in the way of real preparedness has prevented these minor incidents from being destructive. A few more of these attacks will prepare people for future small-scale attacks. The antivirus coders and the firewall people will have seen enough of the current crop of malevolent code to be able to outguess the virus/worm coders. Like earthquake prevention, it does the job—to a point. But it still won't stop the Big One.

PREPARE FOR THE INEVITABLE

You have to play an active role in protecting yourself, and that means taking the following precautions:

Use a premier virus checker, scanner, and monitor. I consider AVP *(www.avp.com)* the best available technology.

Subscribe to a newsletter. AVP's newsletter e-mails current information regarding extreme problems. I was warned about ILOVEYOU before I even received a single copy of the worm itself.

Use a firewall. I use BlackIce Defender from NetworkIce.

Use a less vulnerable e-mail client. I use Eudora instead of Outlook Express. It's proven to be a safer choice.

Watch out for DOC files. I've made my system open documents with WordPad instead of Microsoft Word to avoid executing tricky macros. To do this yourself, follow the instructions I've posted at ***www.dvorak.org/wordpad.html.***

Have multiple access options. I have three access methodologies to get on the Net—two DSL lines and a dial-up connection as a backup. I plan on adding a wireless access system.

Never run executables received over e-mail. I don't run any executable file sent by anyone over e-mail unless I requested it from that person. Know which files are executable.

I expect there will be an Internet Big One, and it should be a whopper. Professionally coded, it should autoexecute, self-propagate, and self-mutate. It will be immensely destructive, including hard drive, ROM BIOS, and peripheral ROM erasure, coupled with a network attack. You'll be out of business if this thing hits you. Get ready today.

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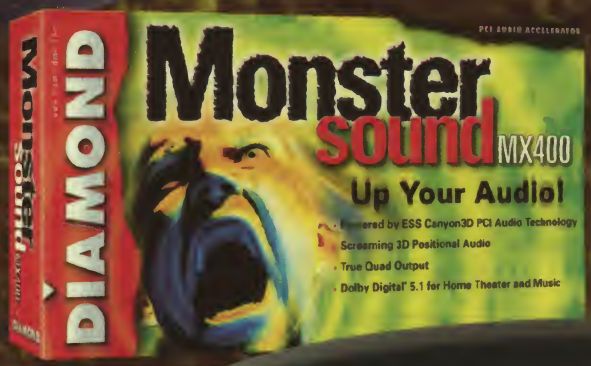

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The benefits haven't been lost on financial institutions. Internet bank X.com recently purchased PayPal ***(www.paypal.com)*** and should merge its money-sending service with PayPal's by August. Subscription-based bill scanning, management, and payment service PayMyBills.com recently purchased payMe.com, and MidWest banking giant BankOne launched eMoneyMail ***(www.emoneymail.com)***.

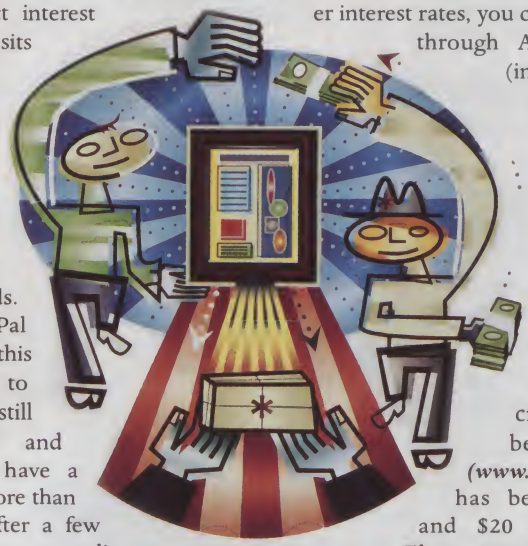
HOW IT WORKS

How you fund your account depends on the service. With payMe.com you provide a credit-card number. PayPal lets you send a voided check for direct withdrawal and deposit. Naturally, X.com customers are already set up for direct transfers from their checking accounts.

To make a payment, just enter the recipient's e-mail address. Because these services don't talk to each other yet, the recipient must have an account with the same service. Most will either cut the recipient a check or deposit the money directly to a bank account. Billpoint customers can't pull money directly from their bank accounts, but sellers can have payments deposited directly to their accounts. PayMe.com will credit a recipient's card, but only if the card company is part of its network. X.com may soon offer the same option.

The services offer other features, as well. PayMe.com lets you invoice individuals, and PayPal lets you bill several people at once to split a tab. X.com and PayPal automatically bill the high bidder in an auction when it closes.

The services derive revenue in a variety of ways. Free services PayPal and payMe.com collect interest on the money that sits in an account waiting to be spent. They pay the credit-card transaction fees sellers would normally pay and even offer customers referral rewards. Even though PayPal recently reduced this reward from $10 to $5, the service is still growing. X.com and PayPal together have a membership of more than 1 million users after a few months in business, according to Elon Musk, X.com's founder and chairman.



Billpoint charges sellers transaction fees from 35 cents to 39 cents plus 3.9 percent of the total transaction. BankOne charges senders $1 and recipients $1 for paper checks. Recipients pay nothing if they credit a Visa card (no other types of cards are supported) or a checking account.

The amount you can send varies, too. With payMe.com and eMoneyMail the limit is $500; X.com allows $10,000.

NEW CURRENCY?

These services could become a way for larger online merchants to avoid mounting credit-card transaction fees. They could also put pressure on gift-currency services such as Flooz and Beenz to let users "cash out" instead of buying products from participating merchants. ClickRewards has already announced it will credit users' cards if they wish to cash out rather than use their rewards to purchase goods.

No single service can replace all the features of their offline counterparts, and the free veneer masks issues online shoppers should be aware of. For instance, even if you "buy" your cash using a credit card, you generally can't put a purchase made through an e-cash transfer in dispute. As with payments made with a debit card, payments made from your checking account negate any "float" benefits you get by deferring payment. And although online banks offer higher interest rates, you can't make deposits through ATMs, and most (including X.com) refund only $6 worth of ATM fees per month.

But e-cash offers an opportunity to shop online to teens who can't get credit cards or shoppers fearful of entering their credit-card numbers. InternetCash ***(www.internetcash.com)*** has begun selling $10 and $20 e-cash cards at 7-Elevens and gas stations, redeemable at select online shops.

As long as you understand when you're saving or making money and when you're just gaining convenience, e-cash can be a great way to close the electronic loop in your online shopping routine.

jobrien_eshopper@mail.com

ILLUSTRATION BY CAMPBELL LAIRD

MICHAEL SLATER

Pervasive Access Changes Everything

New Internet appliances and improving connection technologies will change the way we live.

FOR THE PAST 12 YEARS, I'VE BEEN WRITING ABOUT microprocessors, and for nearly that long, PC applications have hungered for more performance, creating huge interest in processor design. But recently, cheap microprocessors have become fast enough for mainstream applications—while the Internet has exploded, stimulating interest in tasks such as Web browsing and e-mail. Demand is surging for a new category of appliance-like devices to deliver the Internet and digital media without the cost and complexity of personal computers.

To stay abreast of these emerging products, this column will now focus exclusively on these "appliances," including interactive set-top boxes, Internet terminals, Web tablets, game consoles, digital music players, and digital photo frames. I'll help you sort out which ones are most likely to be useful, discuss any trade-offs, and explore the underlying technologies.

Internet access is now common in most homes, primarily through dial-up modems, and the Web has triggered far-reaching changes in nearly all businesses, especially in the publishing and retail arenas. But even bigger changes are ahead, thanks to always-on broadband and wide-area wireless Internet access, as well as home networks. These technologies will make Internet connectivity available in more places, and at higher speeds, driving a major round of changes in Web sites and other Internet services, and making Internet-enabled devices more pervasive.

With data speeds of hundreds of kilobits to megabits per second, broadband connections will make using the Web more enjoyable. High-quality audio becomes possible, as does good-quality streaming video. Combine the always-on nature of most broadband services with instant-on devices such as Web tablets, and the Web fits more naturally into our lives. The Web becomes faster than a phonebook for finding a number, and more nimble than a newspaper for checking a movie timetable. Too bad DSL and cable modems aren't arriving as quickly. It will take a few years for broadband access to be widespread, and at least a decade for it to be pervasive.

In the meantime, many homes are accumulating more and more devices that need Internet access, and this trend is driving demand for home networks. New Internet-connected information appliances typically come bundled with built-in phone modems and their own ISPs. This is a crazy approach, considering many users will soon have more than one of these things. With a home network, Internet connectivity is available throughout the house. You'll have one ISP, and it will provide Internet Protocol (IP) service for everything on your home network.

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM COOK

A few techno-fans have conventional wired Ethernet networks in their homes, but this will be rare. The more popular options include power-line and wireless networks, and phone-line networks that allow for simultaneous voice-line use.

Phone-line and power-line networks each have their place, but the future belongs to wireless. Unlike slow wide-area wireless networks, whose coverage is spotty and unreliable, local-area wireless networks will quickly become inexpensive, reliable, and fast. This will be an area of tremendous development over the next few years, and by 2005 most affluent homes will have always-on, high-bandwidth, wireless IP connectivity throughout the house. This shift will beget a new breed of exciting information appliances, from Web tablets to Internet radios.

Wide-area wireless connectivity is a much tougher problem. Only so much bandwidth is available on the shared airwaves, and the fragmented nature of the wireless industry (especially in the United States) makes it difficult to move quickly to new technologies in a comprehensive way. Eventually, the so-called 3G (third-generation) wireless infrastructure will deliver high-bandwidth Internet connections to most heavily populated areas. New satellite services may also be important. But high-speed wide-area wireless access will be the last to arrive.

Fortunately, it may also be the least important. As local-area wireless networks become more widespread, appearing in airports, hotels, and office buildings, they'll provide the high-speed access to the wide-area connection. Plus, many mobile applications just don't need a lot of bandwidth, so low-speed wide-area access will suffice.

The most ubiquitous access device will be the cell phone, and its display size will remain small. You hear a lot of talk about these phones being Web-enabled, but you won't be doing free-form Web browsing on them. Instead, you'll access specific data such as stock prices and flight times using the WAP protocol from sites specially designed for that purpose.

I'm not a big believer in connecting everything to the Internet. An Internet-connected toaster or dishwasher isn't going to offer much value, but having access to information whenever and wherever you want it will. This "information" will include streaming audio and video, triggering a restructuring of the radio and TV industries.

How all this will evolve is impossible to predict. But it's safe to say wireless access will become widespread, and as a result, countless new information appliances will arise that will affect many aspects of our daily lives.

michael@mslater.com

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Athlon Futuremark™ Performance BenchMark

Source: AMD For AMD Test Configuration.

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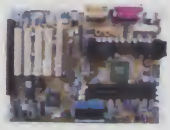

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For many users, the Veriton's compactness will be its most compelling feature. The 21-pound computer is just 6.6 inches deep, 13.3 inches wide, and 14.8 inches tall. It swivels sideways (60 degrees either left or right), as well as up and down (15 degrees up and 4 degrees down). The Veriton's keyboard and mouse are also slightly smaller than usual, and the back edge of the keyboard is curved inward so you can store it close to the computer.

While the Veriton's compact size might make it attractive for both the home and the office, its aging ATI Rage Pro LT AGP 2X graphics engine would not be an optimal choice for fast-moving games or 3D applications. The Veriton scored 102 on our Business Graphics WinMark 99 test, as compared to a typical score of 150 to 190 for a 500MHz desktop with a newer graphics adapter. Moreover, the system has only one available PCI slot and no accessible bays. This limited expansion capability, necessary for the unit's compact size, might be too restrictive for home environments, where outdated systems are often upgraded internally to extend their usefulness.

Acer is positioning the Veriton for the corporate and small-business market, most notably by including a built-in 10BaseT/100BaseTX Ethernet connector with a remote wake-up function. The Veriton is fully compliant with Intel Wired for Management 2.0 and even supports hardware alerts. A modem isn't included, but Acer offers an optional USB-based 56Kbps modem for a reasonable $58. The Veriton also lacks an office suite, an understandable omission since many corporations buy suites through a site license and prefer to take the savings off the system price. For similar reasons, the Veriton's application bundle is sparse, although you'll find a few lesser-known utilities, such as PC-cillin, PC-Doctor, TimeMachine, and ASM Pro Suite.

In other respects, the Veriton is a typical 500MHz desktop. It scored a 21.8 on our Business Winstone 99 benchmark, only about 7 percent slower than the average score for 500MHz Pentium III desktops. And with its 128MB of SDRAM and 13GB hard drive, you have a reasonably strong set of core components despite the slimmer form factor.

The integrated 15-inch Hitachi LCD screen has nearly the same viewable area as many 17-inch CRT monitors, and a sharp native 1,024x768 resolution. It is connected internally to the graphics engine through a digital connection, so the screen images are razor-sharp. A front-mounted IrDA port lets you wirelessly exchange files between the PC and an IrDA-equipped notebook. The front-mounted speakers have excellent fidelity but are driven by an underpowered amplifier. We had to turn the volume all the way up to hear the Windows system sounds.

While it's no speed demon, the 24x CD-ROM drive should be sufficient for most applications. And while the 102-watt power supply wouldn't suffice for an ordinary desktop, it's more than enough to drive whatever you place into the Veriton's single PCI slot. You can also upgrade the system memory from 128MB to 256MB by adding a standard 128MB DIMM to a second memory slot—a nice touch, because many all-in-one desktops use more expensive notebook memory modules. The standard 3.5-inch hard drive is upgradable as well, but Acer recommends that a dealer perform the hard drive and memory upgrades. The Veriton includes a three-year parts-and-labor warranty, and toll-free technical assistance is available 24 hours daily.

Acer's Veriton FP-T500A is a good choice if you have limited desk space and don't need the latest 3D-enhanced graphics adapter. When you consider that a stand-alone 15-inch flat-panel display could cost you as much as $1,200, this system is an excellent bargain.

—David English

★★★★

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Compact all-in-one design; sharp LCD screen; integrated network interface

Outdated graphics adapter; limited expansion capabilities; underpowered sound system

SYSTEM: Acer Veriton FP-T500A
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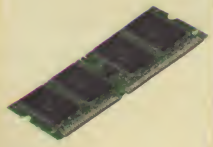

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DESKTOPS

AXIS SYSTEMS TERRA AXB

A Ground-Shaking Gaming System

SERIOUS GAMERS AND PC ENTHUSIASTS DEMAND A SYSTEM THAT delivers top-notch performance and is loaded with state-of-the-art components. And that's what Axis Systems had in mind when it developed the Terra AXB. Still, this level of computing prowess doesn't come cheaply; the Terra AXB carries a direct price of $2,599.

Based on an 800MHz AMD Athlon processor and 256MB of SDRAM, the Terra AXB has a solid foundation to build upon. Axis rounds out the system with a 34GB hard drive, a 10x DVD-ROM drive, an 8x/4x/32x CD-RW drive, and a five-piece speaker system. The inclusion of a 19-inch monitor and a Creative Labs 3D Blaster Annihilator Pro graphics board, with a GeForce 256 processor and 32MB of DDR SDRAM, ups the ante for an even greater gaming experience.

The Annihilator Pro is one of the fastest 3D accelerators available, and the Terra AXB's mind-numbing 3D WinMark 2000 score of 124 will be sure to boost the playability of even the most demanding games. Should you ever be able to put down your grenade launcher and get some work done, a Business Winstone 99 score of 29 indicates the system is up for nearly any business task you throw its way. And you probably won't be waiting long for files to load, as the 7,200-rpm IBM Deskstar hard drive's performance puts most of its competition to shame.

Furthering the Terra AXB's entertainment value is the 10x Pioneer DVD-ROM drive, which uses the CyberLink DVD software decoder. Although the playback in a window looked fine, it became noticeably choppy—especially in action scenes—when the image was scaled to full screen. If you plan to watch DVD movies on this system, you might want to add the optional Sigma Designs Realmagic decoder board for an additional $80. The Terra AXB also comes with a fast 8x/4x/32x CD-RW drive for creating compilations of your favorite audio CDs, as well as archiving files and sharing data. The bundled Adaptec Easy CD Creator software makes all of this very easy.

You won't want to set up the Terra AXB anywhere that you can't make some serious noise. The Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 Digital speaker system (FPS stands for "FourPointSurround") delivers a true wall of sound—actually four walls of it. Each of the four lightweight satellites is a mere 3.25-inch cube, while the 8x6.5x14.5, 25-watt RMS subwoofer delivers ample power to vibrate everything in its vicinity. Feeding the speakers is a Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Platinum sound card, which includes Creative's handy Live Drive, a front-mounted drive-bay unit with an assortment of easily accessible audio-input and -output jacks.

The Terra AXB inhabits a plain-vanilla midtower case. Its three accessible 5.25-inch drive bays are filled, and only one accessible 3.5-inch bay is vacant. Of three memory slots, two are occupied by 128MB DIMMs, but the system can host up to a maximum of 768MB. If you're looking for room to grow, you're definitely limited by the number of bays, but at least the system has a generous number of free expansion slots: Two ISA and two PCI slots remain available.

In addition to Microsoft Works Suite 2000, the Terra AXB comes bundled with Bitware for Windows, Creative Cakewalk Express Gold, Thief: The Dark Project, Descent 3, and Need for Speed: High Stakes.

The system comes standard with a five-year parts and three-year labor warranty; the first year also includes one year of onsite support. For an additional $125, you can tack another two years onto the onsite service plan. Technical support is available 24 hours daily through a toll-free phone number.

The Axis Systems Web site is designed with the PC buyer in mind. You can easily choose from among a number of prematched systems or custom-configure one to order. But the site offers no support information at all, so you'll have to check each component vendor's Web site if you're looking for driver updates.

It's easy to be impressed by the Terra AXB. Not only is it fast, but it also boasts great multimedia features and abundant storage. But prospective buyers should consider its high price, choppy full-screen DVD movie playback, and lack of online support as well.

—*Matthew Klare*

★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Excellent performance; loaded with high-quality options

Expensive; choppy full-screen DVD movie playback; only one free drive bay; no system documentation included; no online driver support

SYSTEM: Axis Systems Terra AXB
COMPANY: Axis Systems Anaheim, CA; 800-378-9014 ***www.axissystems.com***
AS TESTED: 800MHz AMD Athlon; 256MB SDRAM; 34GB hard drive; 8x/4x/32x CD-RW drive; 10x DVD-ROM drive; Creative Labs 3D Blaster Annihilator Pro graphics card with nVidia GeForce 256 chip and 32MB DDR SDRAM; 19-inch Axis Systems 900CX monitor; Creative Labs Live Platinum sound card; five-piece Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 Digital speaker system; 56Kbps modem; 3Com EtherLink 10/100 PCI network interface card; Microsoft Works Suite 2000; additional software
DIRECT PRICE: $2,599

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SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 111

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Proven Performance

Winner of *PC World's* Best Buy in the Power PC Category. *PC World, 6/00 issue*

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"The [SM-Series] includes all the trappings one would expect in a high-end PC." *Computer Shopper, 2/00*

QUANTEX SM933z
Cutting-Edge Performance Desktop

New Intel® Pentium® III Processor 933MHz
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New nVidia GeForce2 GTS 32MB 4x AGP Graphics
CD-ReWritable Drive
56K V.90 Internet Fax/Modem[1]
10/100 PCI Network Card—Broadband Ready
Sound Blaster Live! Value Digital PCI Audio
Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 5-Piece Speakers
Microsoft Office 2000 SBE
3-Year Limited Warranty
One-Year Limited On-Site Service[2]
Add 12x Max Variable Speed DVD-ROM for $99

$2899

Business lease:$105/Mo., 36 Mos.

e-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07s41

QUANTEX SM866x
Cutting-Edge Performance Desktop

Intel® Pentium® III Processor 866MHz
128MB PC133 SDRAM Memory
30GB 7200rpm Ultra ATA-66 Hard Drive
19" High-Resolution Digital Monitor (18" vis)
nVidia GeForce 256 Graphics w/32MB, TV-Out
CD-ReWritable Drive
56K V.90 Internet Fax/Modem[1]
10/100 PCI Network Card—Broadband Ready
Sound Blaster AudioPCI 128 Sound
Altec Lansing ACS-33 Speakers w/Subwoofer
Microsoft Office 2000 SBE
3-Year Limited Warranty
One-Year Limited On-Site Service[2]
Add 12x Max Variable Speed DVD-ROM for $99

$2199

Business lease:$80/Mo., 36 Mos.

e-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07s30

QUANTEX SM800s
Cutting-Edge Performance Desktop

Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
128MB PC133 SDRAM Memory
30GB 7200rpm Ultra ATA-66 Hard Drive
17" High-Resolution Digital Monitor
Matrox G400 AGP Graphics w/32MB (Dual-head display)
Internal Zip Drive
12x Max Variable Speed DVD-ROM Drive
56K V.90 Internet Fax/Modem[1]
10/100 PCI Network Card—Broadband Ready
Sound Blaster AudioPCI 128 Sound
Altec Lansing ACS-33 Speakers w/Subwoofer
Microsoft Office 2000 SBE
3-Year Limited Warranty
One-Year Limited On-Site Service[2]

$1899

Business lease:$69/Mo., 36 Mos.

e-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07s21

QUANTEX M800s
Affordable Desktop Solution

Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
128MB High-Performance SDRAM Memory
20GB Ultra ATA-66 Hard Drive
19" Monitor (18" vis, .26dp, 1600x1200 max res)
Intel 2D/3D Graphics Accelerator
12x Max Variable Speed DVD-ROM Drive
56K V.90 Internet Fax/Modem[1]
Dynamic Wavetable Stereo Sound
3-Piece Stereo Speakers w/Subwoofer
Corel WordPerfect Office 2000
3-Year Limited Warranty
One-Year Limited On-Site Service[2]
Add CD-ReWritable for $199

$1499

Business lease:$54/Mo., 36 Mos.

e-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07m40

Standard Features: *Floppy Drive, MS Windows 98 2nd Ed, Internet-Ready Keyboard & MS Mouse, ATX Mid-Tower Case, Software Essentials, 2 USB Ports,* ***24/7 Toll-Free Technical Support***

Peripheral Upgrades: *Canon MultiPass C560 Printer/Scanner/Fax/Copier...add $299. 36-bit USB Color Scanner...add $99 (after rebate). MS Sidewinder Precision Pro Joystick...add $49. Lexmark Z52 Color Printer...add $179*

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*Quantex SM933z Performance Desktop Pictured**

With Quantex you get it all–proven performance, award-winning service and reliability, and a truly amazing value. Our SM-Series Desktops incorporate the latest technologies in a box designed to maximize your overall experience (and save you a few bucks). For one, they're powered by the fastest Intel® Pentium® III processors! Combine that with massive amounts of powerful new RDRAM– up to 300% faster than PC100 SDRAM– plus a whole host of other top-notch name-brand components and you've got state-of-the-art performance even when running the most cumbersome multimedia applications, games, DVD, the Internet and more. Get a Quantex and you're in for the most dazzling PC experience yet.

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Cutting-Edge Performance Desktop

- **Intel® Pentium® III Processor 733MHz**
- **128MB PC133 SDRAM Memory**
- 30GB 7200rpm Ultra ATA-66 Hard Drive
- **17" High-Resolution Digital Monitor**
- **nVidia TNT2 AGP Graphics w/32MB, TV-Out**
- 56K V.90 Internet Fax/Modem[1]
- 10/100 PCI Network Card—Broadband Ready
- **12x Max Variable Speed DVD-ROM Drive**
- Sound Blaster AudioPCI 128 Sound Card
- Altec Lansing ACS-21W Speakers
- Corel WordPerfect Office 2000
- **Lexmark Z11 Color Printer**
- 3-Year Limited Warranty
- One-Year Limited On-Site Service[+]

$1599

Business lease: $58/Mo., 36 Mos.

Q-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07s13

QUANTEX M733t
Affordable Desktop Solution

- **Intel® Pentium® III Processor 733MHz**
- **128MB High-Performance SDRAM Memory**
- 15GB Ultra ATA-66 Hard Drive
- **17" High-Resolution Digital Monitor**
- Intel 2D/3D Graphics Accelerator
- **Internal Zip Drive**
- **12x Max Variable Speed DVD-ROM Drive**
- 56K V.90 Internet Fax/Modem[1]
- Dynamic Wavetable Stereo Sound
- 3-Piece Stereo Speakers w/Subwoofer
- Corel WordPerfect Office 2000
- 3-Year Limited Warranty
- One-Year Limited On-Site Service[+]

$1299

Business lease:$47/Mo., 36 Mos.

Q-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07m23

QUANTEX M667v
Affordable Desktop Solution

- **Intel® Pentium® III Processor 667MHz**
- **64MB High-Performance SDRAM Memory**
- 15GB Ultra ATA-66 Hard Drive
- **17" High-Resolution Digital Monitor**
- Intel 2D/3D Graphics Accelerator
- **12x Max Variable Speed DVD-ROM Drive**
- 56K V.90 Internet Fax/Modem[1]
- Dynamic Wavetable Stereo Sound
- 3-Piece Stereo Speakers w/Subwoofer
- Corel WordPerfect Office 2000
- 3-Year Limited Warranty
- One-Year Limited On-Site Service[+]

Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM for $99

$1099

Business lease:$40/Mo., 36 Mos.

Q-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07m21

QUANTEX M566c
Affordable Desktop Solution

- **Intel® Celeron™ Processor 566MHz**
- 64MB High-Performance SDRAM Memory
- **10GB Ultra ATA-66 Hard Drive**
- **17" High-Resolution Digital Monitor**
- Intel 2D/3D Graphics Accelerator
- 48x Max Variable Speed CD-ROM Drive
- 56K V.90 Internet Fax/Modem[1]
- Dynamic Wavetable Stereo Sound, Speakers
- Corel WordPerfect Office 2000
- 3-Year Limited Warranty
- One-Year Limited On-Site Service

Upgrade to 12x Max Variable Speed DVD-ROM for $69

$899

Q-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07m04

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"If you need a laptop that can handle any task you might throw at it, and can serve as an excellent desktop replacement, you'll find the [W-Series] an outstanding value." *Laptop Buyers Guide and Handbook,* Best Buy Award, 04/00

QUANTEX W-1500
Desktop Replacement Notebook

New Pentium® III Processor 700MHz featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
15" XGA TFT Active Matrix Display
128MB PC100 SDRAM Memory
18GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
Modular 8x Max Variable Speed DVD-ROM Drive
Integrated Stereo Sound and Speakers
ATI Mobility P Graphics w/8MB, TV-Out
Quantex Deluxe Carrying Case Included!
Network-Ready Mini-Docking Station
External 104-Key Keyboard & MS PS/2 Mouse
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$3099

Business lease:$107/Mo., 36 Mos.
e-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07w42

QUANTEX W-1500
Desktop Replacement Notebook

Pentium® III Processor 650MHz featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
15" XGA TFT Active Matrix Display
128MB PC100 SDRAM Memory
12GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
Modular 8x Max Variable Speed DVD-ROM Drive
Integrated Stereo Sound and Speakers
ATI Mobility P Graphics w/8MB, TV-Out
Quantex Deluxe Carrying Case Included!
MS Windows 2000 Professional
Corel Office 2000
Upgrade to Microsoft Office 2000 SBE for $129

$2499

Business lease:$91/Mo., 36 Mos.
e-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07w38

QUANTEX W-1400
Desktop Replacement Notebook

Pentium® III Processor 600MHz featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
14.1" XGA TFT Active Matrix Display
64MB PC100 SDRAM Memory
12GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
Modular 8x Max Variable Speed DVD-ROM Drive
Integrated Stereo Sound and Speakers
ATI Mobility P Graphics w/8MB, TV-Out
Quantex Deluxe Carrying Case Included!
MS Windows 98 Second Edition
Corel Office 2000
Upgrade to Microsoft Office 2000 SBE for $129

$2199

Business lease:$80/Mo., 36 Mos.
e-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07w00

QUANTEX W-1400
Desktop Replacement Notebook

Pentium® III Processor 600MHz featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
14.1" XGA TFT Active Matrix Display
64MB PC100 SDRAM Memory
6GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
Modular 24x Max Variable Speed CD-ROM Drive
Integrated Stereo Sound and Speakers
ATI Mobility P Graphics w/8MB, TV-Out
Quantex Carrying Case Included!
MS Windows 98 Second Edition
Corel Office 2000
Upgrade to Microsoft Office 2000 SBE for $129

$1999

Business lease:$73/Mo., 36 Mos.
e-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07w18

Standard Features: Smart Lithium Ion Battery, Floppy Drive, 56K V.90 Internet Fax/Modem, USB/Fast IR Ports, Personal Touchpad, 3-Yr Limited Warranty on CPU & Memory, 1-Yr Parts and Labor Limited Warranty on all other components
Peripheral Upgrades: Quantex Mini-Docking Station...$179. Smart Lithium Ion Battery...$119. PCMCIA Network Card...$129. Quantex Deluxe Carrying Case...$89. Targus Defcon1 Security Lock...$49. Canon BJC-85 Portable Color Printer...$299.

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Quantex W-1500 Notebook pictured with optional mini-docking station

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W-Series **BEST BUY**

Desktop Replacement Notebook

New Pentium® III Processor 700MHz featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
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ATI Mobility P Graphics w/8MB, **TV-Out**
Quantex **Deluxe Carrying Case** Included!
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Business lease: $105/Mo., 36 Mos.
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Connect your external mouse and keyboard to the two **PS/2 Ports**.

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W-Series Mini-Docking Station Pictured

Peripheral Upgrades:
W-Series Mini-Docking Station...add $179.
Smart Lithium Ion Battery ...$119.
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Quantex Deluxe Carrying case...$89.
Targus Defcon1 Security Lock...$49.
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QUANTEX ZX866xi
Leading-Edge Technology

- *Dual* Intel® Pentium® III Processors 866MHz
- 256MB RDRAM Memory (2GB max.)
- 18GB Ultra160/LVD SCSI Hard Drive
- Adaptec Ultra160/LVD SCSI Controller
- Intel® 10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Controller w/WOL
- 21" Monitor w/ On-Screen Display (20" vis, .26dp)
- 3DLabs Oxygen GVX210, 64MB 3D AGP Graphics Card w/Dual-Monitor Support
- Advanced Creative Labs Sound
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
- 3-Year Limited Warranty
- One-Year Limited On-Site Service*

$5999

Business lease: $207/Mo., 36 Mos.
QI-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07z13

QUANTEX ZX800x
Leading-Edge Technology

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
- Dual-Processor Upgradeable
- 128MB RDRAM Memory (2GB max.)
- 18GB Ultra160/LVD SCSI Hard Drive
- Adaptec Ultra160/LVD SCSI Controller
- Intel® 10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Controller w/WOL
- 19" High-Resolution Digital Monitor (18" vis)
- 3DLabs Oxygen GVX1 3D AGP Graphics, 32MB
- Advanced Creative Labs Sound
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
- 3-Year Limited Warranty
- One-Year Limited On-Site Service*

$3499

Business lease: $121/Mo., 36 Mos.
QI-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07z12

QUANTEX ZX800s
Leading-Edge Technology

- *New* Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
- Dual-Processor Upgradeable
- 128MB ECC SDRAM (1GB Max)
- 9GB Ultra2/LVD SCSI Hard Drive
- Adaptec Ultra2/LVD SCSI Controller
- Intel® 10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Controller w/WOL
- 19" High-Resolution Digital Monitor (18" vis)
- 3DLabs Oxygen VX1 3D AGP Graphics, 32MB
- Advanced Creative Labs Sound
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
- 3-Year Limited Warranty
- One-Year Limited On-Site Service*

$2499

Business lease: $91/Mo., 36 Mos.
QI-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07z30

QUANTEX ZX750t
Leading-Edge Technology

- *New* Intel® Pentium® III Processor 750MHz
- Dual-Processor Upgradeable
- 128MB ECC SDRAM (1GB Max)
- 30GB 7200rpm Ultra ATA-66 Hard Drive
- Intel® 10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Controller w/WOL
- 19" High-Resolution Digital Monitor (18" vis)
- 3DLabs Oxygen VX1 3D AGP Graphics, 32MB
- Advanced Creative Labs Sound
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
- 3-Year Limited Warranty
- One-Year Limited On-Site Service*

Add CD-ReWritable for $199

$1999

Business lease: $73/Mo., 36 Mos.
QI-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07z03

Standard Desktop Features: Floppy Drive, 2 USB Ports, 48x Max Variable Speed CD-ROM Drive, **ATX Mid-Tower Case: Chassis-lock, Removable HD Chassis and Power Supply**. 104-Key Keyboard, Microsoft Mouse, WfM Compliant, DMI2.0, ACPI, Cable Modem Ready, ***24/7 Toll-Free Technical Support***

Standard Workstation Features: Floppy Drive, 48x Max Variable Speed CD-ROM Drive, Altec Lansing ACS-21W Speakers, MS Natural Keyboard Elite, MS IntelliMouse, WfM Compliant, DMI2.0, ACPI, Cable Modem Ready, ***24/7 Toll-Free Technical Support***

Quantex ZX800s Workstation

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Spec for spec, Quantex Business Desktops and Workstations are configured for success at prices that are much less than you'd expect. Great for businesses of all sizes, Quantex SB-Series Desktops offer a reliable, stable computing platform that's easy to use and very sensibly priced. For businesses that require ultra-high performance on data and graphic intensive applications, Quantex ZX-Series Workstations are hardware optimized for extremely demanding applications like CAD/CAM and digital content creation. In addition, both series feature Intel® Pentium® III processors and Windows 2000 Professional, which offers a 99.95% uptime rate^. Extreme reliability, proven features and a great price. That's everything your business needs to move ahead in the e-business age.

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- 64MB High-Performance SDRAM Memory
- 15GB Ultra ATA-66 Hard Drive
- 17" High-Resolution Digital Monitor
- Intel 2D/3D Graphics Accelerator
- Dynamic Wavetable Stereo Sound
- Intel® 10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Adapter w/WOL
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
- 3-Year Limited Warranty
- One-Year Limited On-Site Service+

$1099

Business lease: $40/Mo., 36 Mos.
Q-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07b00

QUANTEX SB733s
Sensible Business Desktop

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 733MHz
- *New* 128MB RDRAM Memory
- 20GB/7200rpm Ultra ATA-66 Hard Drive
- 19" High-Resolution Digital Monitor (18" vis)
- Advanced Creative Labs Sound
- Intel® 10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Adapter w/WOL
- nVidia GeForce 256 Graphics w/32MB, TV-Out
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional/MS Office 2000 SBE
- 3-Year Limited Warranty
- One-Year Limited On-Site Service+

$1999

Business lease: $73/Mo., 36 Mos.
Q-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07b46

QUANTEX SB700t
Sensible Business Desktop

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
- 128MB High-Performance SDRAM Memory
- 15GB/7200rpm Ultra ATA-66 Hard Drive
- 17" High-Resolution Digital Monitor (15.8" vis)
- Advanced Creative Labs Sound
- Intel® 10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Adapter w/WOL
- nVidia TNT2 Vanta AGP Graphics, 16MB
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional/MS Office 2000 SBE
- 3-Year Limited Warranty
- One-Year Limited On-Site Service+

$1399

Business lease: $51/Mo., 36 Mos.
Q-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07b34

QUANTEX SB500c
Sensible Business Desktop

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
- 64MB High-Performance SDRAM Memory
- 10GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 15" Digital Monitor w/ On-Screen Display
- Intel 2D/3D Graphics Accelerator
- Dynamic Wavetable Stereo Sound
- 10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Adapter w/RJ-45
- MS Windows 98 Second Edition
- 3-Year Limited Warranty
- One-Year Limited On-Site Service+

$799

Q-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07b25

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- 256MB ECC SDRAM (2GB Max)
- 9GB Ultra2/LVD SCSI Drive (360GB Max.)
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- 5 Hot-Swap RAID Capable Drive Bays (upgradable to 10)
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Server
- Redundant 350 Watt Hot-Swap Power Supplies
- Microsoft Internet Information Server 5.0

$2999

Business lease starting at: $109/Mo., 36 Mos.
-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07q50

QUANTEX IS2000
2U Scalable Internet Server

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
- Dual-Processor Upgradable
- Compact 2U (3.5") x 24" L x 16.75" W Rack-Server Design
- 128MB ECC SDRAM (2GB Max)
- 9GB Ultra2/LVD SCSI Drive (220GB Max.)
- Dual Intel Pro/100 NICs w/Adapter Fault Tolerance and Adaptive Load Balancing
- Ultra2/LVD SCSI Controller
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive & Slimline CD-ROM
- Two Full-Size 32-bit PCI Slots
- 4 Hot-Swap RAID Capable Drive Bays
- 275 Watt Power Supply
- Red Hat Linux w/Apache Web Server

$2599

Business lease starting at: $94/Mo., 36 Mos.
-QUOTE NUMBER: csa07q70

QUANTEX IS1000
1U High-Density Internet Server

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 650MHz
- Headless Installation for Mass Server Deployment
- Compact 1U (1.75") x 22" L x 16.75" W Rack-Server Design
- 128MB ECC SDRAM (1GB Max)
- 10GB 7200rpm Ultra ATA 66 Hard Drive
- Dual Intel Pro/100 NICs w/Adapter Fault Tolerance and Adaptive Load Balancing
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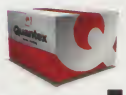

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DESKTOPS

MICRONPC.COM CLIENTPRO CF

Planning for Obsolescence

MICRONPC.COM CONTINUES ITS SUCCESSFUL INROAD INTO THE workstation arena with the recent introduction of its downsized ClientPro Cf line of managed PCs. Building on its already well-established ClientPro Cs line of corporate systems, the Cf takes a low-cost approach. The Cf is designed to be an inexpensive system with an expected life span of two to three years—destined to be replaced by completely new PCs, rather than periodically updated with new components. Hence, each Cf system boasts a small form factor without any expansion slots or free drive bays, relying on integrated components.

The base model starts at $849 with a 433MHz Celeron processor, 64MB of memory, and no monitor, but the unit we looked at was a bit more upscale. It included a 15-inch monitor and 128MB of SDRAM, which inched the cost up to $1,117 direct. The balance of the components are a 4.3GB hard drive and 40x CD-ROM drive; the sound, graphics, and a 10/100Mbps network interface are all integrated on the motherboard. Limited configuration options are available: up to a 600MHz Pentium III processor, 512MB of RAM, and 13GB of hard drive space, as well as larger-size displays and optional speakers.

Performance isn't of paramount importance to IS managers looking at this type of system, but that doesn't mean the Cf will disappoint. The system squeezes extra performance from the 433MHz Celeron processor with its use of Windows 2000 Professional. The NT variations of Windows have always been more stable and have provided a better application environment. The Cf's score of 23.5 on our Business Winstone 99 test is quite good compared with similarly configured systems running Windows 98, and is more than sufficient to run typical business apps.

While the system's 4.3GB hard drive seems puny compared to the 20GB and larger data vaults found on higher-end systems, its 4,390 score on the Business Disk WinMark 99 shows it to be one of the fastest among systems we've tested in this class. On the other hand, the Cf's 2D graphics performance is noticeably slower than that of other similar systems. This is a result of the slower Intel 810E graphics chip set and the scant 4MB of memory it borrows from system memory.

The 3.75x13x16-inch (HWD) enclosure can be a desktop chassis or swung over on its side with an optional $15 cradle for a micro-tower profile. It's slightly scalable (the IS term for "expandable"), but only by processor, memory, hard drive, and CD-ROM drive upgrades. All three of the box's bays, two accessible and one internal, are occupied. Releasing a thumbscrew and pulling off the cover gives you access to the inside, but there's really no reason to do so unless you're swapping out a drive, which will require a screwdriver. The system's lack of expansion slots of any type means you can only add peripherals via the USB ports. (The Cf has four—two on the front and two on the back.)

The Cf is covered by a three-year parts warranty, and the CPU and memory are covered for five years. The system also comes with one year of onsite service, under a next-business-day plan. You can upgrade the warranty to a full three years of onsite service for $99, four years for $199, or five years for $299. The company even offers a number of three-year, next-business-day, onsite-service plans for various countries, such as England, Germany, and Italy. Customer support in the United States is available toll-free, 24 hours daily, and micronpc.com's Web site is an excellent source for driver upgrades and product information.

The system ships with Norton AntiVirus 2000 and Intel LANDesk 6.0. Because the Cf is Intel Wired for Management (WfM)-compliant, it easily supports remote wake-up, reset, shutdown, and hardware monitoring.

Although not everyone will think that an inexpensive system with limited expandability is a better investment than a more expensive system with greater upgrade potential, it does afford a lower initial out-of-pocket expense. As long as you don't anticipate using the system for any graphics-intensive or rendering-related tasks, the ClientPro Cf should deliver the goods to your workforce—at least for the next two years or so.

—*Bill O'Brien*

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Inexpensive; good performance; WfM-compliant; four USB ports

Very limited expandability; small-capacity hard drive

SYSTEM: micronpc.com ClientPro Cf
COMPANY: micronpc.com Nampa, ID 888-262-1311, 208-898-8970 *micronpc.com*
AS TESTED: 433MHz Intel Celeron; 128MB SDRAM; 4.3GB hard drive; 40x CD-ROM drive; integrated Intel 810E graphics controller with 4MB system memory cache; 15-inch micronpc.com 500DX monitor; integrated ADI 1881 audio chip; integrated 3Com 10/100 Ethernet controller; additional software
DIRECT PRICE: $1,117

ZDNet Price It!™ 29697

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intel inside pentium® III

8293

Common Features

- 102-key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Removable 6.0GB, 12.0GB, or 18.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120, Iomega Zip Drive, or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- PCMCIA 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 IEEE 1394 Port & 1 Video-In Port
- 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter

15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 18.0GB Hard Drive[4]
6X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$2645**

15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 750MHz
Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
256MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 18.0GB Hard Drive[4]
6X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$2995**

2893

Common Features

- 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Removable 6.0GB, 12.0GB, or 18.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot which supports ZV-Port and Card Bus
- Built-in 10/100 Ethernet Lan Adapter
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- Slim Notebook: 12.8"w x 10.15"d x 1.49"h

15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (6X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1895**

15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 12.0GB Hard Drive[4]
6X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$2195**

3593

Common Features

- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Removable 6.0GB, 12.0GB, or 18.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- PCMCIA 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 IEEE 1394 Port
- 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- Slim Notebook: 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.4"h

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 12.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (6X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$2245**

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 750MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 12.0GB Hard Drive[4]
6X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$2495**

3593

Common Features

- 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Removable 6.0GB, 12.0GB, or 18.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- PCMCIA 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 IEEE 1394 Port
- 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- Slim Notebook: 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.4"h

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (6X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1795**

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 12.0GB Hard Drive[4]
6X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$2045**

Options LS-120 Drive • Iomega Zip Drive • Car Adapter • Port Replicator • Numeric Keypad • PCMCIA Cards (V90 Data/Fax, Ethernet 10/100 16-Bit, MPEG-II) • Please call for options availability, most options are notebook specific. **Tech Support** 888-576-4742 **Leasing & Warranty** Business leasing available on all ProStar systems. Lifetime toll-free technical support. One year parts and labor warranty. 30-day money back guarantee. 3 year warranty from Phillips Magnavox (Optional on every ProStar System). **Special Programs** Dealer/VAR, Government and Corporate pricing available. Call a ProStar representative for details. **GSA Contract** GSA Contract # GS-35F-5084H **ProStar Computers, Inc.** 1128 Coiner Court, City of Industry, CA 91748 • Tel (626)854-3428 • Fax (626)854-3438 • Hours: Mon-Fri, 7:30am-6:00pm, Sat, 9am-3pm (PST) • American Express, VISA and MasterCard Credit Cards Accepted – NO SURCHARGE.

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3153

Common Features

- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB, 12.0GB or 18.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 or 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- > PCMCIA 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Slim Notebook: 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.4" h

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 12.0GB Hard Drive[4]
6X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$2195**

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 12.0GB Hard Drive[4]
6X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive & LS-120 Drive **$2445**

3153

Common Features

- > 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB, 12.0GB or 18.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 or 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- > PCMCIA 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Slim Notebook: 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.4" h

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (6X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1695**

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive[4]
6X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$1945**

3293

Common Features

- > 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB or 12.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, or LS-120
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 USB Port & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Super Slim Notebook: 11.93"w x 9.05"d x 1.16"h

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
64MB SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (6X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1695**

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
64MB SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 12.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (6X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1845**

5150

Common Features

- > 128KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > AGP 4MB S3 Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB or 12.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- > 3D Sound Effect
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- > NiMH Battery (Smart Lithium-Ion Battery opt.)
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 USB Port & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Headphone and 1 Microphone
- > A4 Size 86-Key Keyboard for Easy Typing
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Super Slim Notebook: 11"w x 9.4"d x 1.5"h

12.1" SVGA HPA Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
32MB SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive **$1245**

12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
64MB SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (6X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1395**

[1]2X Minimum, [2]10X Minimum, [3]Download speeds limited to 53Kbps. Upload speeds are less. Actual data speeds will vary depending on line conditions. [4]Total HD accessible capacity may vary depending on operating environment. ©2000 by ProStar Computer Inc. All rights reserved. Intel, the Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks, SpeedStep and Celeron are trademarks of Intel Corporation. All other companies and product names are trademarks of their respective companies. Dealer price is not subject to 30 days money back guarantee program. Opened software and shipping charges are non-refundable. 30-day money back guarantee does not include return freight or shipping and handling charge. Not responsible for photo or typographical errors. Price and terms subject to change without notice.

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HARDWARE

EPSON STYLUS PHOTO 870

Printing to a Photo Finish

Best Buy July 2000

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A COLOR PHOTO printer that's as fast as a jackrabbit and prints stunning waterproof photographs that won't fade for a decade? If so, then Epson's $299-estimated Stylus Photo 870 fits the bill.

The 1,440x720-dpi Stylus Photo 870 isn't the world's fastest text printer, taking 6.5 minutes to print 12 pages during testing. But it was a screamer with our color photo-printing tests, pumping out a highest-quality 6x7.5-inch glossy in well under 3 minutes.

In both cases, output quality was as good as anything we've seen from a mid-priced inkjet. Text was laser-sharp, even when printing tiny 6-point fonts, and color output was completely free of streaking. Our test photographs contained jaw-dropping detail, deeply saturated colors, solid blacks, and excellent color accuracy. The only flaw we could spot—and it was a minor one—was a slight tendency to over-saturate shadow detail.

Contributing to the Stylus Photo 870's superb output is its ultrahigh resolution and six color printheads, which Epson claims produce the smallest droplets in the industry. The printer also uses moisture-resistant paper and ink designed to resist fading under light for at least 10 years—far longer than most lab-processed photographs.

Epson estimates that the printer consumes 98 cents worth of its special fade-resistant ink and paper to print an 8.5x11-inch glossy. We managed to squeeze 28 glossy full-page prints from a single color cartridge, with the black cartridge lasting for 65 pages. This yielded a real-world figure of $1.95 per page for full-page color printing. Though this price is a bit higher than average for color inkjets, it's still far less than the cost of a professionally finished photograph of comparable quality.

The Epson Stylus Photo 870 is a suitable text printer, but it's unrivaled when it comes to printing durable color photographs. At $299, it's not the least expensive color inkjet on the market, but for impressive-looking output, it can't be beat.

—Don Labriola

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Excellent color photo performance; superb output quality; lightfast inks

Relatively slow text printing

PRODUCT: Epson Stylus Photo 870
COMPANY: Epson America
Long Beach, CA; 800-463-7766
www.epson.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: $299

ZDNet Price It!™ 29666

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

TOSHIBA SD-R1002 COMBINATION CD-RW/DVD-ROM DRIVE

Bridging the Media Gap

IT MAY LOOK LIKE AN ORDINARY ATAPI CD-ROM DRIVE, but the $319-estimated Toshiba SD-R1002 Combination CD-RW/DVD-ROM Drive is actually four drives in one. As the name suggests, not only does the 4x/4x/24x drive read CD-ROMs, write music and data files to recordable CDs, and back up your hard drive or archive files to rewritable CD-RW media, it even plays DVDs.

Like most of today's Windows-compliant CD-RW drives, the SD-R1002 comes bundled with Adaptec's Easy CD Creator 4 and DirectCD 3.0 for CD mastering and packet-writing. For DVD movie playback, Toshiba includes the CyberLink PowerDVD software player.

When installing the PowerDVD software, you are given the option of enabling the drive's DMA mode, which we recommend doing for maximum performance. The drive turned in a CD-ROM WinMark 99 score of 1,140, quite good for a 24x-maximum CD-ROM drive, and required less than 4 percent of the CPU's utilization. Write times were normal for a 4x CD-R and 4x CD-RW. It took 19 minutes and 6 seconds to copy a full CD to a CD-R disc, and 10 minutes and 45 seconds to copy 300MB of data to a CD-RW disc.

DVD movies played smoothly on our 400MHz Celeron test system, even while the system was performing other tasks. PowerDVD has a wide range of useful features, including the ability to capture still images from a movie, variable-speed playback in both forward and reverse modes, and flexible screen-sizing options.

The Toshiba SD-R1002 is only the second combination CD-RW/DVD-ROM drive we've seen come to market (the other being the $399-estimated 6x/4x/24x Ricoh 9060A). This fact backs up our conclusion that the SD-R1002 is something of a mixed bag. Its CD read performance is excellent, and its DVD-ROM read capability is cutting-edge. Its write speed, though, lags slightly behind that of its only competitor. With 8x CD-R writers already commonplace and 8x rewriters rapidly approaching, you need to ask yourself whether you're willing to sacrifice a bit of write speed for the versatility this drive affords.

—Sheldon Leemon

★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Reads DVDs and writes to CD-RW and CD-R media; good CD-ROM read performance; smooth DVD playback

Write and rewrite speeds slower than competition

PRODUCT: Toshiba SD-R1002 Combination CD-RW/DVD-ROM Drive
COMPANY: Toshiba America Electronic Components
Irvine, CA; 888-900-1530
www.sdd.toshiba.com
MFR. EST PRICE: $319

ZDNet Price It!™ 29695

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

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When you buy an Optiquest® display you're purchasing the quality, performance and support that assures your complete satisfaction. Take the Optiquest Q95 for example. This new, price performance 19" (18.0" viewable) monitor offers a super fine 0.23mm horizontal dot pitch and bright, super rich colors. With a screen size comparable to many 21" (various viewable) monitors, it's the perfect choice for applications from spreadsheets to computer games.

The longer you look the better it gets.

All Optiquest monitors provide razor sharp images and bright, precise colors that make viewing a joy. This plus new, low prices make Optiquest the sensible choice to include with today's low priced PC's. Call one of the dealers listed below and see for yourself. Optiquest powered by ViewSonic®...it's giving sensible a good reputation.

For more information: www.optiquest.com

Q95

Powered By ViewSonic®

Introducing Optiquest's New Q Series

	Q115	Q95	Q75	Q71	Q55	Q51	Q41
CRT Size	21"	19"	17"	17"	15"	15"	14"
Viewable Image Size	19.6"	18"	16"	16"	13.8"	13.8"	13.2"
Horizontal Dot Pitch	.22mm	.23mm	.21mm	.23mm	.24mm	.24mm	.25mm
Maximum Resolution	1,600 x 1,200	1,600 x 1,200	1,600 x 1,200	1,280 x 1,024	1,280 x 1,024	1,024 x 768	1,024 x 768
Optimal Resolution	1,280 @ 88Hz	1,280 @ 80Hz	1,280 @ 80Hz	1,024 @ 87Hz	1,024 @ 86Hz	800 @ 88Hz	800 @ 76Hz

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HARDWARE

SEAGATE BARRACUDA ATA II ST330630A

Taking a Bite Out of Storage

AS HARD DRIVE CAPACITIES CONTINUE TO SOAR into the stratosphere, a 30GB drive offers both breathing room and a place to catch your breath—more than enough space for reasonable use without stretching today's technical limits. Seagate Technology's Barracuda ATA II ST330630A promises to be a worthy contender in this lofty category, and it's appealingly priced at an estimated $193.

With three platters spinning at 7,200 rpm, six heads delivering an average access time of 8.2ms, an ATA/66 interface, and a 2MB internal cache, the Barracuda delivers lightning-quick performance. When running on an ATA/33 interface, the Barracuda approaches the scorching speeds of the Maxtor DiamondMax Plus 40 drive. (See the April review "Move Over for the Big Drive," p. 116.) When placed in a system that supports its ATA/66 bus, the Barracuda accelerates past the DiamondMax, scoring an impressive 5,160 on the Business Disk WinMark 99 test on our 300MHz Pentium II-based testbed. Although these speed differences are measurable, they are small and shouldn't be your primary buying consideration.

Seagate includes its DiscWizard software to speed installation and match all those gigabytes to systems with older BIOSs. If necessary, it will automatically install a Dynamic Drive Overlay (essentially a software BIOS extension) so you can use the full 30GB on most older PCs. Seagate also includes a separate DOS-based file-copying utility, which will migrate everything from your old drive to the new one.

The documentation should be easy to follow if you're familiar with a PC's innards, but it might not be sufficient for component-upgrade neophytes. A three-year warranty protects you if the drive's mechanical measures don't.

If your current hard drive is about to burst its seams, the Seagate Barracuda ATA II offers an excellent value—the $193 price works out to about half a cent per megabyte.

—Winn L. Rosch

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS
Inexpensive; excellent performance; large storage capacity
Mediocre documentation

PRODUCT: Seagate Barracuda ATA II ST330630A
COMPANY: Seagate Technology
Scotts Valley, CA; 877-271-3285
www.seagate.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: $193
ZDNet Price It! 29694
For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

MICROTEK SCANMAKER V6UPL

Scanning Made (Almost) Easy

MICROTEK'S LATEST FLATBED SCANNER, THE $129-estimated ScanMaker V6UPL, is a fast and flexible unit ideal for users seeking an easy way to scan color images and slides. Its OCR capabilities, on the other hand, leave much to be desired.

The V6UPL measures 21.5x11.8x3.2 inches (HWD), weighs about 11.5 pounds, and scans in documents of up to 8.5x14 inches, as well as 35mm slides (using the included slide adapter). A charge-coupled-device image sensor provides up to a 600x1,200-dpi optical resolution and 36-bit color depth (up to 9,600 dpi with data interpolation).

The V6UPL features both a USB and a parallel-port connector; we used the USB port for our tests. The bundled software includes the scanner's TWAIN driver, Microtek's ScanWizard 5 interface, Ulead PhotoImpact 4.2, Caere OmniPage LE, Caere PageKeeper Standard, Adobe PhotoDeluxe 2.0, and Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.

A single Go button on the scanner permits one-touch scanning into almost any application, with a choice of an advanced or standard preview-and-control dialog window launching first. We scanned in a 4x6-inch color photo, which took about 42 seconds using a 36-bit color depth at 300 dpi. The resulting image was nearly identical to the original in color and brightness.

It took only 22 seconds to scan our newsletter at 300 dpi and 12-bit gray scale, and an additional 10 seconds to convert the document into text. The resulting document contained 34 errors and did not replicate the original's multicolumn format. Also, you can't use the ScanWizard interface to scan in documents for OCR; rather, you need to scan directly into OmniPage. A Microtek representative says an improved OCR engine will be included in the next (though as of yet unscheduled) release of ScanWizard.

With the exception of its limited OCR capabilities, this unit excels. With its swift scan speeds, sharp image quality, USB interface, and slide adapter, the Microtek ScanMaker V6UPL is a versatile image scanner.

—Keith Kirkpatrick

★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS
Excellent image quality; fast scanning speeds; 35mm slide adapter
OCR inaccuracies

PRODUCT: Microtek ScanMaker V6UPL
COMPANY: Microtek
Redondo Beach, CA
800-654-4160
www.microtekusa.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: $129
ZDNet Price It! 29667
For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

HARDWARE

MICROSOFT INTERNET KEYBOARD PRO

Let Your Fingers Do the Surfing

MICROSOFT CORP.'S INTERNET KEYBOARD PRO IS designed to make the time spent sitting in front of your PC a little easier. With a total of 19 hotkeys for browser, multimedia, and user-programmable functions, the $54.95-estimated keyboard might even make your computing tasks a bit more fun.

Eight dedicated Internet browser keys perform common functions, such as back, forward, refresh, and search. These are great features, but unfortunately, they will only work with selected browsers. We tested the keyboard using *AOL 4.0*. Although Microsoft claims it is among the supported browsers, we had to download a patch from the Microsoft Web site to get it working. The keyboard's Internet keys do not support CompuServe or any browser other than Internet Explorer 4.0 or later, and Netscape 3.0 or later. (For a list of compatible browsers, go to ***www.microsoft.com/products/hardware/keyboard/supported.htm***.)

Multimedia keys let you play, stop, change tracks, or adjust the volume without ever having to move your mouse. These keys should work with any file you can play using a compatible media player. (Once again, check the Web site.) Two keys can be programmed to open a program, a file, or even a Web address. And here's a wonderful feature for the forgetful: Common Ctrl-key tasks, such as cut, paste, and copy, are printed right on top of the keys.

With two USB ports on the keyboard, you can quickly connect USB devices such as a digital camera or scanner, as long as they are rated at 100mA or less. Setup is as easy as plugging in the PS/2 and USB connections and loading the software. The keys feel solid, and the palm rest is simple to remove.

It's easy to take your keyboard for granted—until you see how the addition of a few useful hotkeys can make using your PC more convenient. But make sure your programs are compatible with the keyboard before you press that "buy" button. —*Andrea J. Smith*

★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Lots of convenient hotkeys; stylish look; comfortable design

Not compatible with all browsers; requires both a PS/2 and a USB port

PRODUCT: Microsoft Internet Keyboard Pro
COMPANY: Microsoft Corp. Redmond, WA; 800-426-9400 ***www.microsoft.com/hardware***
MFR. EST. PRICE: $54.95

ZDNet Price It!™ 29682

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

NETWORKS

HP JETDIRECT 70X HOME PRINT SERVER

Printing 'Round The House

A PHONE-LINE NETWORK IS A GREAT RESOURCE-sharing solution for small-office or home users with multiple PCs. But because home networking is still a relatively new technology, phone-line accessories are a bit scarce. One of the first peripherals to fill this gap is the $99-estimated HP JetDirect 70X Home Print Server.

To share a printer across an existing HomePNA network, you usually need to attach the printer to one of the networked PCs and leave that system on so that other users can access the printer. But the 70X allows shared access to a printer without requiring a dedicated system. The only PC that needs to be on is the one from which you send a print job.

To set up the 70X, you plug your printer into the 70X's IEEE 1284 parallel port, then connect the server to an RJ-11 jack in the wall.

The 70X's installation software and the printer's driver must be installed on each networked PC.

The 70X is a HomePNA 1.0 device (rated at 1Mbps), but it should work with any HomePNA-compliant network. We tested the unit on a network consisting of two systems, a 500MHz Pentium III-based Dell and a 466MHz Celeron-based HP, as well as an HP LaserJet 4L printer. We also tested the 70X with two network configurations: one consisting of a LinkSys HomeLink Phoneline Network in a Box (HomePNA 1.0), and the other using a 3Com HomeConnect Home Network Phoneline Kit (HomePNA 2.0).

Although both worked fine, we did notice that sending a print job through the 70X server was a bit slower than it would be if the system were directly connected to a printer.

The server supports the scanning and faxing features of some HP multifunction devices. (See HP's Web site for specific models.) It should also work with just about any printer that normally connects through a parallel port.

Though the HP JetDirect 70X communicates at 1Mbps, the convenience it affords should more than make up for any loss in print speed. —*Neil Randall*

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Shares a printer without the need for a dedicated system

Slower than printing directly to a printer

PRODUCT: HP JetDirect 70X Home Print Server
COMPANY: Hewlett-Packard Co. Palo Alto, CA; 800-243-9812 ***www.hp.com/go/jetdirect***
MFR. EST. PRICE: $99

ZDNet Price It!™ 29687

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4.1 GAME ZONE

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MOBILE

QUANTEX W-1511

A High-Octane Desktop Displacer

TARGETING THE COMPUTING ENTHUSIAST WHO'S LOOKING FOR AN all-around system with more emphasis on performance than portability, Quantex places a SpeedStep-enabled 700MHz Pentium III processor inside its generously sized W-1511. And at $2,799, you won't have to sell the farm to own it.

Powered by an extremely capable processor, 128MB of SDRAM, an 18GB hard drive, and ATI's Rage Mobility-P graphics processor with 8MB of SGRAM, the W-1511 can really accelerate. But at 8.5 pounds and measuring 1.6x12.8x10.5 inches (HWD), this roadster is not as mobile as some less generously equipped notebooks.

Using SpeedStep technology, the W-1511 can be set in two modes: one to optimize performance, the other, battery life. The clock speeds shift between 700MHz and 550MHz, depending on which mode is selected. (See "Supercharged Notebooks" in the Features section for a review of a 650MHz SpeedStep configuration of the W-1511.)

In performance mode, the W-1511 scored 26.9 on our Business Winstone 99 test, one of the highest notebook results we've seen to date. The trade-off was a slightly lower BatteryMark 3.0 result of 2 hours and 55 minutes. Switching to the battery-optimized mode produced only a slightly longer BatteryMark of 3 hours and 2 minutes, and a lower Winstone score of 25. In either mode, the unit can handle just about any productivity application with ease, as well as many graphics programs.

The unit's Business Graphics WinMark 99 score of 178 in battery-optimized mode indicates that the W-1511 can easily handle any 2D-intensive application, but 3D performance is more of a challenge. The W-1511 scored only 18.3 on the 3D WinMark 2000 tests in battery-optimized mode—high for a notebook, but low for a desktop. Basic multimedia functions, such as presentations, are the extent of the unit's 3D competence. Gaming is possible, but it won't be on a par with playing on a desktop. You'd have to use a lower resolution, and even then, image quality would be blockier and more erratic. Because the unit's ATI Rage Mobility-P graphics chip with 8MB of SGRAM is one of the better solutions on the market for notebooks, don't expect gaming to be the next big trend in portables.

The same can be said about sound. The audio is good enough for presentations to small groups, but it lacks bass and volume. On the plus side, the sound was clear at high levels, which can't be said of many notebooks. Having the volume keys on the side of the unit is a convenience you'll appreciate when you need to turn the volume down quickly. You'll want to use an external speaker system for movies or presentations to large audiences.

When giving a presentation, you'll appreciate the unit's ability to send images to an external display. The DVD-ROM drive and Ravisent CineMaster 99 software make for great entertainment. DVD playback quality was good, with smooth motion and good color tone.

The 15-inch XGA display is a highlight of the W-1511. The display is big enough to view large spreadsheets, and the image is bright enough for entertainment purposes as well.

The large display allows room for a large keyboard. Keys are spaced far enough apart for comfort, and the 3mm travel provides a solid typing experience. A large touch pad is embedded in the wrist rest.

Other features include a modular bay and connectivity options. The modular bay is occupied by the DVD-ROM drive, but it can hold a second battery or a CD-RW drive. The floppy drive is integrated into the unit and located next to the built-in V.90 modem. The unit has a full array of ports, including parallel, serial, PS/2, VGA, S-Video, Fast IR, and USB.

Windows 98 and the business-oriented Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business come preinstalled. The unit includes a one-year warranty on parts and labor, short for a system near the $3,000 mark, though the processor and memory are covered for three years. Technical support is available 24 hours daily.

The Quantex W-1511 is solidly built with performance in mind, so you won't find such frills as a colorful case, hot-launch buttons, or keys for direct Web links. First-time buyers looking for maximum hand-holding may want to look elsewhere, but PC enthusiasts seeking good value on a well-featured notebook should put the W-1511 on the short list.

—Raymond M. Padilla

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Affordable; good high-end feature set
Short (one-year) warranty

SYSTEM: Quantex W-1511
COMPANY: Quantex Microsystems
Somerset, NJ; 800-836-0566
www.quantex.com
AS TESTED: 700MHz Pentium III; 128MB SDRAM; 18GB hard drive; 6x DVD-ROM drive; 15-inch XGA active-matrix LCD; ATI Rage Mobility-P graphics chip with 8MB SGRAM; ESS Maestro audio chip; V.90 modem; touch pad; Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business
DIRECT PRICE: $2,799

ZDNet Price It!™ 29701
For real-time pricing, go to priceit.zdnet.com and enter number.

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The new TravelMate 600 Series—*with CD-RW drive*—gives a whole new meaning to the term "all-in-one notebook." Now you can write and rewrite 650MB of portable data, eliminating the need for a floppy drive. Plus you get a large, crisp 13.3" XGA display secured by a magnesium-alloy chassis. With both an integrated modem and Ethernet, you'll easily connect anywhere. Even so, this notebook weighs only 5.41 pounds and is a mere 1.29" thin. And all this for a lot less than you'd expect. Acer—we hear you.

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MOBILE

TOSHIBA PORTÉGÉ 7200CT

In With the Thin Crowd

LOSING WEIGHT IS NEVER EASY. CONSIDER, FOR INSTANCE, THE SLEEK and sexy Toshiba Portégé 7200CT. It's a shoulder-friendly sub-5-pounder that still has real punch, thanks to a 600MHz Mobile Pentium III CPU and a decent-size 13.3-inch screen. But with no removable drives onboard, this $3,399 unit isn't quite ready for the long haul.

Most notebook shoppers will immediately be attracted to the 7200CT's svelte profile. It tips the scales at a mere 4.3 pounds and is only an inch thick, yet it magically packs in a bright 13.3-inch XGA active-matrix screen, which is as big as it gets for this class of notebook. The 7200CT's 600MHz Mobile Pentium III processor is just 50MHz away from the current apex for notebooks (although a 700MHz Pentium III processor will be available by the time you read this). The CPU uses Intel's SpeedStep technology to conserve battery life by reducing clock speed from 600MHz to 500MHz when the notebook is running on battery power.

The system also provides an adequate 64MB of SDRAM, an ample 12GB Ultra DMA hard drive, and an external floppy drive. Built-in connectivity options are somewhat limited, although this lightweight system does include two PC Card slots, IrDA and USB ports, a 56Kbps modem, and an external-monitor connection. On-the-go users who might want to do more—like sync up a Palm device or print a PowerPoint document—will need to tote an external port adapter. Larger than a cell phone and more of a nuisance to pack, the adapter adds a PS/2 connection for an external keyboard or mouse, a serial port, and a parallel port for printing.

Notice something missing? Yep, you won't find a CD-ROM or DVD drive. If you want to play music, watch a movie, or even just load some software, you'll need the optional DVD Network Dock II station, which costs a whopping $649. The 7200CT easily snaps into the slice-style docking station, which weighs only 2.6 pounds and is less than an inch thick. It includes built-in floppy and DVD drives, a 10/100 Ethernet port, two USB ports, and a video-output jack, plus mouse, keyboard, monitor, parallel, and serial ports.

Unfortunately, the docking station seems a little flimsy to withstand the rigors of the road. And when combined with the AC adapter, it brings the 7200CT into the 7-pound range, resulting in a portly Portégé. It's the classic ultraportable dilemma: Putting back all the things road warriors *might* need on long trips, such as a floppy drive and a parallel port, results in a system that suddenly isn't all that trim.

Despite these omissions, can the bantam-class 7200CT measure up to other, larger competitors? It's no desktop displacer, but it certainly comes close. Processor benchmarks were impressive, with a Business Winstone 99 score of 16.7 in performance mode. On our BatteryMark 3.0 test, the unit hummed along for 3 hours and 14 minutes in performance mode, and 3 hours and 23 minutes in battery-optimized mode. While most full-size notebooks persevere for 4 hours or more, this is a pretty good rating for an ultraportable.

The system's AGP graphics adapter has only 4MB of SDRAM, but it still turned out strong numbers in business- and 3D-graphics tests. The only slower-than-expected test results came from the 12GB hard drive, which trailed the disk performance of other (admittedly bigger) laptops with similar specs.

The 7200CT felt surprisingly comfortable to use, with a sturdy and solid feel that belied its diminutive physique. The full-size keyboard is a little unresponsive and lacks the travel of other, larger units, but it's comparable with those of other ultrathin models. The only quibble we had was with the placement of the right pointer button, which seemed a little too close to the left pointer button on the system's palm rest.

Overall, the 7200CT makes the same compromises most other ultraportables do. However, if you don't mind these limitations, you'll certainly be pleased with its comprehensive set of features and a price that's reasonable for this class of system. The Portégé might not be the desktop-replacement unit that coast-to-coast road warriors really need, but people who frequently take their notebooks on short trips or rely on them during their daily commute will find it more than handy.

—*John R. Quain*

★★★

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Good performance; relatively sturdy

Limited onboard connectivity; no CD-ROM or DVD drive

SYSTEM: Toshiba Portégé 7200CT

COMPANY: Toshiba America Information Systems
Irvine, CA; 800-867-4422
www.computers.toshiba.com

AS TESTED: 600MHz Pentium III; 64MB SDRAM; 12GB hard drive; 13.3-inch XGA active-matrix LCD; Trident CyberBlade 3D graphics chip with 4MB SGRAM; V.90 modem; ESS ES1978S audio chip

MFR. EST. PRICE: $3,399

ZDNet Price It!™ 29707

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

MOBILE

NEC VERSA FX

Versa for Versatility

THE VERSA FX, NEC COMPUTERS' ULTRAPORTABLE OFFERING TO THE corporate market, provides the versatility of a more fully configured unit while maintaining a petite package. In addition to its 500MHz Pentium III processor, 128MB of SDRAM, 6GB hard drive, and 12.1-inch SVGA LCD, the Versa FX comes standard with an external 1.44MB floppy drive and a 24x CD-ROM drive. The latter is a bonus, because an external CD-ROM drive usually adds a couple of hundred dollars to a notebook's price.

Unfortunately, these external drives can be a bit of a hassle, because they attach to the unit using different proprietary cables that look very similar. It's all too easy to pack the wrong one when taking only one of the drives on a trip. In addition, you must boot the system with these external units already attached, or the PC won't recognize them.

The system can directly power the CD-ROM and floppy drive, so you can use either while on the road or in the air. The CD-ROM drive itself is light at six-tenths of a pound, and the notebook's AC adapter is tiny, both boons for travelers. The system comes with microphone and headphone jacks on the front edge, so listening to audio files is easy.

Full-featured is the theme of the diminutive Versa FX. Weighing 3.4 pounds and measuring 1x11x9 inches (HWD), the unit has a 12.1-inch SVGA display, which is a bit larger than the screens of most ultraportables. Even so, the unit is barely heavier than the norm for an ultraportable.

Generally, the first complaints you hear from users about this class of notebook are that the screen and keyboard are too small. These grievances are related, because a small screen usually sits in a smaller form factor, leaving less room for the keyboard. Fortunately, the Versa FX's 12.1-inch display offers plenty of viewing real estate and room for a comfortable full-size keyboard. In addition, the unit has e-mail and Internet launch keys above the keyboard. The display is bright with even color distribution, so it's easy on the eyes.

For presentations to large groups, users will want to send a video signal to an external device; a video-out port is one of the few built-in ports. The other connectors are three USB ports, plus the proprietary floppy and CD-ROM ports. This arrangement is spare, but it does cater to the preferences of the Versa FX's mobile-executive audience, which typically wants dimensions to be as small as possible. The minimalist theme also applies to the unit's external drives, which do not carry any of the traditional ports, such as parallel, serial, or PS/2 ports. The unit does come with a parallel-port converter that attaches through the floppy drive connector, allowing you the option to print. But again, that solution requires another cable you must remember to carry. The two Type II PC Card slots ensure that expansion by adding peripherals is still an option.

Performance results are mixed. The scores of 23.9 on Business Winstone 99 and 143 on Business Graphics WinMark 99 indicate that the unit can handle the applications most likely to be used by its target audience, namely productivity programs such as Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. However, the BatteryMark 3.0 result of 56 minutes is well below the norm for units in its class. Less than an hour of runtime simply does not cut it. NEC does offer extra-cost battery options, such as an extended-life battery for $99 and a maximum-life battery for $319.

You won't have to pay extra for a modem, though, because the Versa FX comes with a V.90 unit built-in. Also, you won't see any warranty upgrades in your future, because the unit comes with a three-year parts-and-labor agreement.

As a business-friendly system, the Versa FX comes with software that helps restore the unit to its original image, should that be required following a hard drive crash. In addition, for corporate environments, users can connect to a LAN using a $159 optional Mini PCI network card and an RJ-45 adapter cable.

Corporate customers will appreciate the versatility of the Versa FX's configuration, which balances lots of extras with maximum portability, but NEC should seriously consider extending the notebook's battery life. —*Raymond M. Padilla*

★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Light weight; full-size keyboard; three-year warranty; expandable components

Short battery life; octopus-like array of attached components

SYSTEM: NEC Versa FX
COMPANY: NEC Computers Sacramento, CA; 888-632-8701 *www.nec-computers.com*
AS TESTED: 500MHz Pentium III; 128MB SDRAM; 6GB hard drive; 24x CD-ROM drive; 12.1-inch SVGA active-matrix LCD; Silicon Motion Lynx3DM graphics chip with 4MB VRAM; ESS Solo-1 audio chip; V.90 modem; touch pad
MFR. EST. PRICE: $2,699

ZDNet Price It!™ 29702

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MOBILE

IBM THINKPAD I SERIES MODEL 1492

Big Blue Dives Into Consumer Waters

DIVERGING FROM ITS REPUTATION AS A PC MANUFACTURER TARGETing the corporate class, IBM Corp. is making a concerted effort to appeal to consumers with its i Series ThinkPads. Its latest is the i Series Model 1492, a feature-packed powerhouse portable.

Adding a bit of color is a growing trend in consumer-related products, and IBM extends that idea by offering colored covers that fit onto the 1492. Available in a variety of metallic and matte finishes, such as Eclipse Blue Metallic and Sirius Red, these $30 covers are obviously designed more for style than substance.

Offering more substance than style are the front-mounted volume and CD controls. The unit's DVD-ROM drive can play audio CDs even when the notebook is turned off, perfect for those plane flights when the seatback in front of you is tilted too close for typing. The most ingenious option, though, is the small ThinkLight mounted at the top of the notebook's lid, above the LCD. Flip a switch below the screen, and this tiny light illuminates the keyboard just enough to allow you to see the keys in low-light conditions.

The unit also features four Easy Launch buttons above the keyboard. In a rather obvious example of co-marketing, these keys default to a series of Lycos pages for search, e-commerce, and e-mail. They can, however, be redefined to launch any application or Web page.

The keyboard has a superb feel, with deep key travel and good tactile feedback. In the center is IBM's trademark TrackPoint pointing stick. In addition to two mouse buttons below the keyboard, a third, larger button works in conjunction with the pointing stick to emulate a scroll wheel.

The unit still has the horsepower you'd expect from a corporate ThinkPad, packing in a 500MHz Pentium III processor, 128MB of SDRAM, a 12GB hard drive, and a 6x DVD-ROM drive. A Business Winstone 99 score of 21.8 and Business Graphics WinMark 99 score of 125 indicate performance able to handle typical applications with ease.

The only weak spot is 3D performance, where a 3D WinMark 2000 score of 13.6 at 800x600 resolution indicates that gaming isn't up to desktop-PC levels. The 3D performance could have been improved by including more graphics memory with the ATI Rage Mobility-M chip. The unit comes with only 4MB (not upgradable), while business-oriented notebooks tend to come with 8MB, though at price points typically above $3,000.

You can take solace in the large and bright 15-inch XGA display. Sound was also impressive, though like with all notebooks, volume levels, even at the highest settings, would not project well to a large audience. DVD playback was excellent, with no dropped frames or jerkiness.

The ThinkPad offers other features to sweeten the deal, including two Ultraslim bays, allowing simultaneous use of floppy and DVD-ROM drives. You can also swap in a Zip 100 drive, an LS-120 SuperDisk drive, or a second hard drive, all available as options. A full suite of ports includes a single USB port and an S-Video connector, great for presentations or watching DVD movies on a big screen. The built-in V.90 modem ensures that you'll always be able to surf the Web.

On the road you'll enjoy excellent battery life, given our BatteryMark 3.0 result of 3 hours and 48 minutes. However, the notebook's travel weight is a bit high at 7.8 pounds, and the large LCD gives the unit a 1.7x12.9x10.6-inch form factor, too big for some laptop bags.

Along with a software bundle that includes Lotus SmartSuite 2000, Quicken 2000, Media-matics DVDExpress, and Norton AntiVirus, IBM includes a full online manual and many custom utilities. Particularly reassuring is ConfigSafe, which can restore your Registry, system files, and directory structure should they get mangled.

The unit's warranty is only one year, uncomfortably short for a notebook. Still, even without the color covers, innovative features such as the keyboard light and offline audio-CD player make the IBM ThinkPad i Series Model 1492 stand out in a crowd of me-too notebooks.

—*Denny Atkin*

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Innovative consumer-oriented design; gorgeous screen; excellent keyboard

Short warranty; substandard 3D performance

SYSTEM: IBM ThinkPad i Series Model 1492
COMPANY: IBM Corp. Research Triangle Park, NC 800-426-7255
www.ibm.com/thinkpad
AS TESTED: 500MHz Pentium III; 128MB SDRAM; 12GB hard drive; 6x DVD-ROM drive; ATI Rage Mobility-M graphics chip with 4MB VRAM; 15-inch XGA active-matrix LCD; ESS Solo-1 audio chip; internal V.90 modem; pointing stick; Lotus SmartSuite 2000
DIRECT PRICE: $2,794

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The TravelMate includes a 650MHz Pentium III processor, 128MB of SDRAM, a 12GB hard drive, a 4x/4x/20x CD-RW drive, and the ATI Rage Mobility-M1 graphics chip with 8MB of SGRAM. These components are all contained in a 5.25-pound, 1.5x11.8x9.5-inch (HWD) unit, with a magnesium-alloy cover to protect the 13.3-inch XGA display.

A silver area surrounding the power button and the three audio jacks (audio in, audio out, and microphone) on the front edge adds some flash. With the jacks on the front edge, you can listen to audio files while carrying the unit. A volume control on the front edge would have been nice, however. Turning your notebook on accidentally while sliding it into or out of your notebook bag is a thing of the past with the TravelMate, because you must first press, then slide the power button to activate the unit. These thoughtful measures are typical of the unit's design.

The TravelMate's slim form factor is partly possible because it trims back on ports. Although not completely legacy-free (the unit does have VGA and PS/2 ports), the TravelMate leaves the bulk of its connectivity options to USB, with two USB ports on the back. Another on the front would have given added flexibility.

Ethernet and modem jacks make up for the single Type II PC Card slot. Users with parallel-port printers won't bemoan the lack of a parallel port, because the unit includes an adapter that can be attached to the replicator port. However, you'll need to remember to carry it if you want to print on the road.

The unit boldly foregoes a floppy drive, opting for just a CD-RW drive. Although this choice helps bring down cost and weight, it may be ahead of its time, especially because not all CD-ROM drives can read CD-RW discs. Acer's competitors will surely monitor this move closely. If you're unwilling to take this leap, you can purchase a USB floppy drive for $99. A DVD-ROM drive is available for $350.

The TravelMate's display and keyboard are top-notch. The 13.3-inch LCD is bright, with rich colors. The generous size also helps accommodate a comfortable 95 percent-size keyboard, rare in smaller units.

The touch pad is also easy to use, and the scroll buttons allow easy navigation up and down documents and Web pages.

This system is no slouch when it comes to performance. The TravelMate scored 24.7 on Business Winstone 99 in high-performance mode, with a clock speed of 650MHz. In battery-optimized mode with a clock speed of 500MHz, the TravelMate scored 22.8. In both cases, the unit provides ample support for productivity apps such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Its Business Graphics WinMark 99 scores of 172 at 650MHz and 149 at 500MHz also hint at an aptitude for 2D graphics. The 3D WinMark 2000 results, as in most notebooks, were more modest. Though 3D gaming is not the unit's strength, the unit can easily handle 3D well enough for presentations.

Computing on the road won't be a problem for this long-running unit. It lasted 5 hours and 12 minutes on BatteryMark 3.0 in battery-optimized mode. In performance mode, the unit still performed like a trooper, enduring for 4 hours and 52 minutes.

However, one area where the TravelMate didn't last was the warranty: Acer provides only one year of parts-and-labor coverage. Fortunately, toll-free technical support is available 24 hours daily. And to allow a little troubleshooting of your own, Acer packages the unit with TimeMachine, which maintains a working snapshot of the system in case you need to dial back. The software bundle also includes Microsoft Works 2000.

The Acer TravelMate 602TER breaks out of the pack in both style and innovation. Its affordable price and high-end performance complete the picture.

—Richard S. Shim

★★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Long-lasting battery life; affordable; innovative design and features

One-year warranty

SYSTEM: Acer TravelMate 602TER
COMPANY: Acer America Corp. San Jose, CA; 800-733-2237 *www.acer.com*
AS TESTED: 650MHz Pentium III; 128MB SDRAM; 12GB hard drive; 4x/4x/20x CD-RW drive; ATI Rage Mobility-M1 graphics chip with 8MB RAM; 13.3-inch XGA active-matrix LCD; ESS Solo-1 audio chip; internal V.90 modem and Ethernet; touch pad; Microsoft Works 2000
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SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 138

IBM ThinkPad A20m

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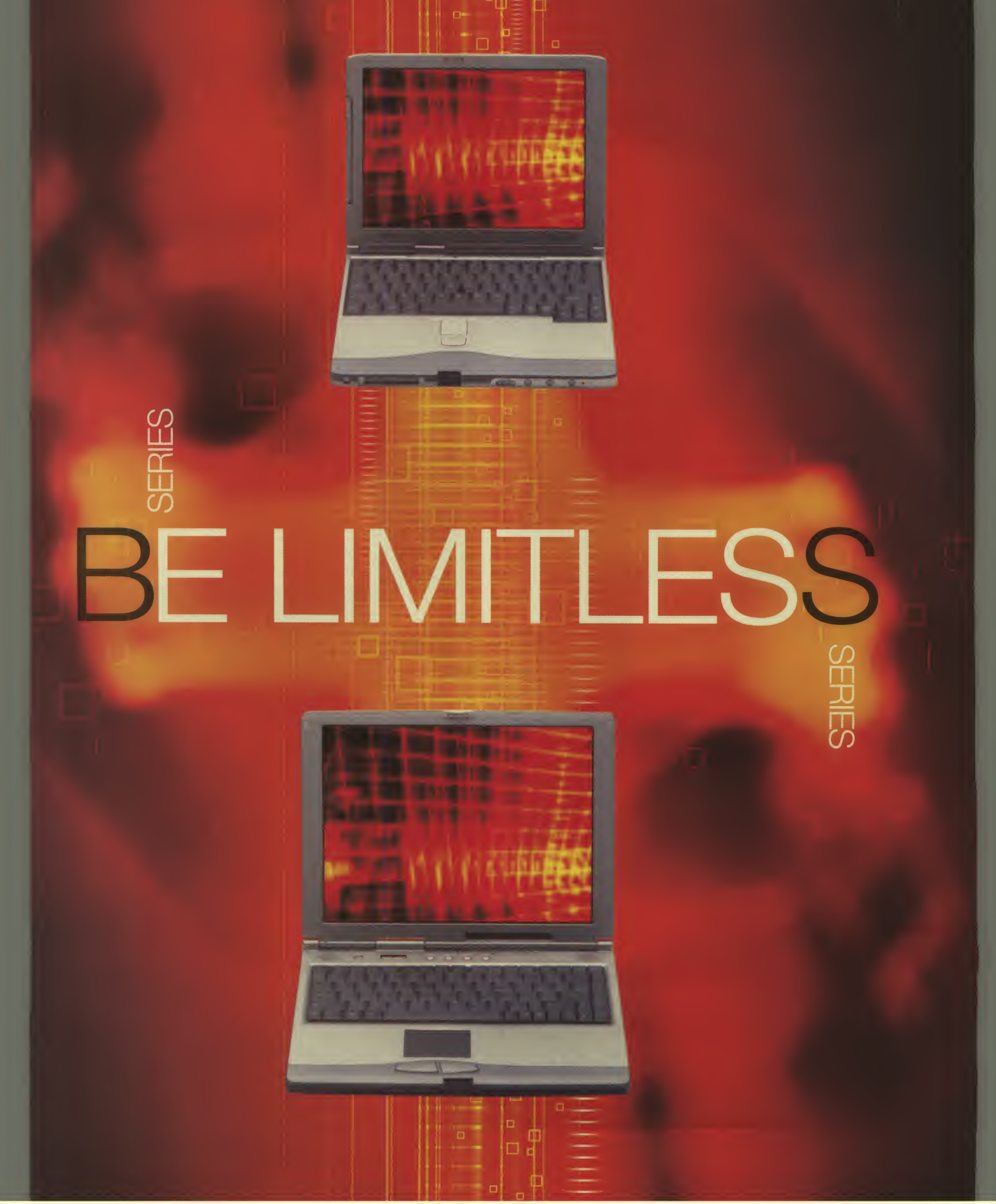
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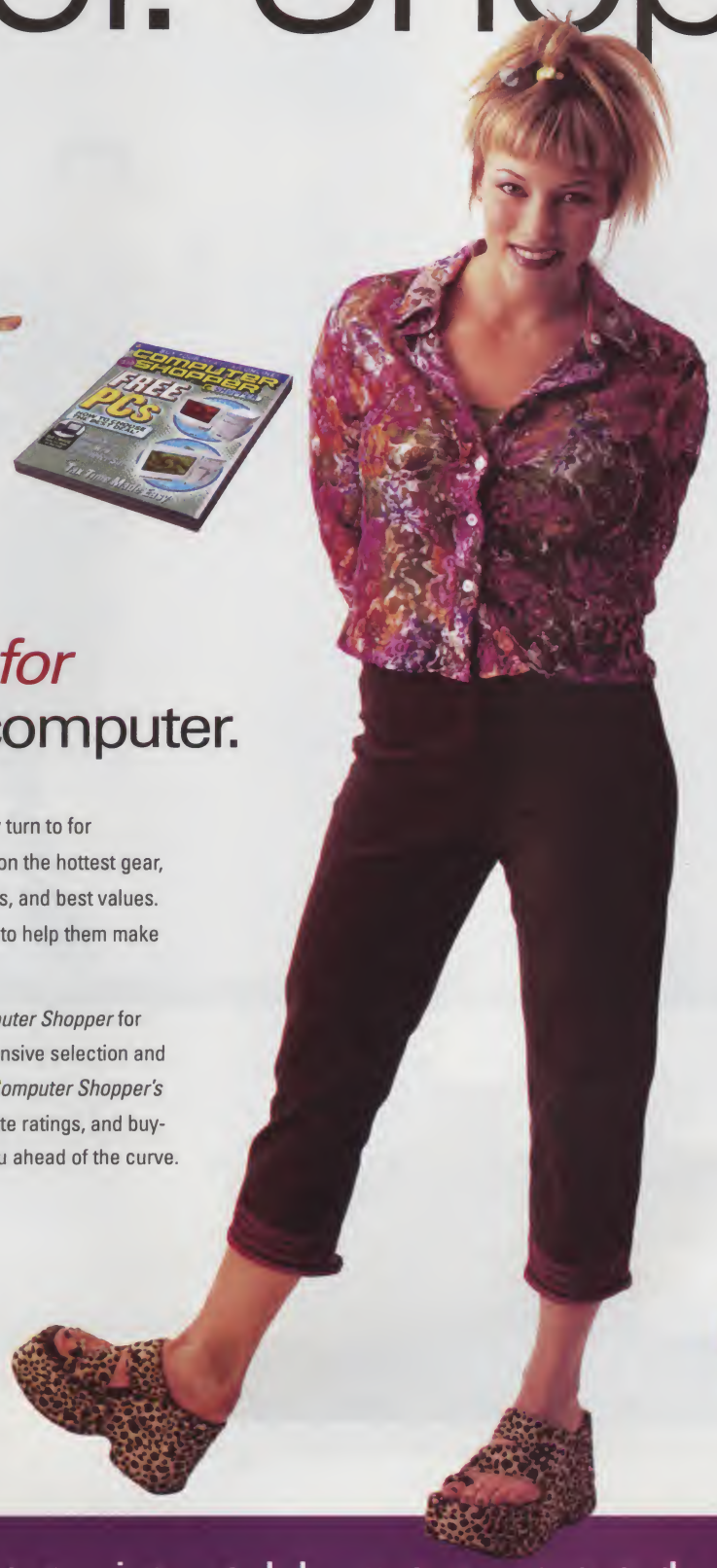

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HP JORNADA 545 POCKET PC

MOBILE

Power in Your Pocket

WITH ITS CRISP COLOR DISPLAY, A BRAND-NEW OS, and tons of built-in apps, the new HP Jornada 545 Pocket PC could actually lure power users away from their Palms. Although a bit pricey at $499, a slick design and generous software bundle make this Pocket PC a prime pick.

Measuring 5.2x3.1x0.6 inches and weighing in at 9 ounces, the Jornada 545 is noticeably larger than its Palm competition, but it should still fit into a jacket pocket without tugging at the seams. It comes in a slick gunmetal-gray aluminum shell with a detachable lid that protects the 3.75-inch color touch screen and houses the stylus. We managed to squeeze about 7.5 hours out of the lithium-ion battery between charges.

That's quite an accomplishment, considering that the Jornada 545 packs a speedy 133MHz processor with 16MB of RAM. (A 32MB model, the Jornada 548, should be available by the time you read this for $599.) It also has a range of expansion and connectivity options, including a Type I CompactFlash slot, a USB cradle, and an IR port for quick file transfers. An optional serial cable is available for those who haven't stepped up to USB.

The device's greatest strength is its multitude of built-in applications, courtesy of the newly revamped Windows CE platform (now called Powered by Windows). It still includes the basic PIM apps and Microsoft Money, but it has now been optimized for communications. First, you get Pocket versions of Word, Excel, and Outlook, which permit viewing of file attachments in e-mail. The system even includes a software client that lets AOL users check their mail. Microsoft has also revamped its mobile version of Internet Explorer for faster, although still somewhat awkward, Web browsing.

The Jornada 545 really shines when it comes to fun and games. The unit ships with Microsoft Reader for reading e-books, AudiblePlayer 2.0 for listening to audio books, and a music player that can play MP3 and Windows Media Player music files.

For PIM users with basic needs, the HP Jornada 545 is overkill. But if you want a model that defines what today's handhelds are capable of, it's a top choice. —*Dan Costa*

★★★

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Great design; good performance; lots of features

Expensive; somewhat bulky

PRODUCT: HP Jornada 545 Pocket PC
COMPANY: Hewlett-Packard Co. Palo Alto, CA 800-443-1254, 970-635-1000 *www.hp.com/jornada*
AS TESTED: 133MHz Hitachi SH3 CPU; 16MB RAM; 16MB ROM; 240x320, 16-bit-color touch screen; one Type I CompactFlash slot; IrDA interface; built-in speaker and microphone; headphone jack; USB docking cradle/charger
MFR. EST. PRICE: $499

ZDNet Price It!™ 29706

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

SAMSUNG YEPP YP-E64

The Yepp Calls To Generation Y

TAKING A CUE FROM THE POPULARITY OF MP3 files among students, Samsung's Yepp YP-E64 targets the Y generation with a sleek multifunction audio device. The $249.99 Yepp, at 0.7x2.5x3.5 inches (HWD) and 3.4 ounces, is in the same league as other units available, both price-wise and size-wise. It comes in blue or silver. Besides MP3 playback, the Yepp can record voice messages and store phone numbers.

Its 64MB internal capacity provides plenty of room. We managed to deposit an hour's worth of near-CD-quality audio files, compressed at 96Kbps, plus an hour of voice recordings and 150 phone entries. The Yepp includes a SmartMedia card slot, so you can add an extra 64MB card for $129.95.

You can view stored song titles, message headings, names, and numbers on the three-line, 10-character, non-backlit LCD. Getting the audio files onto the device can take some time, however, because the unit connects to the PC by a parallel-port connector, slower than a USB connection. It took 15 minutes to move 64MB worth of audio to the device, compared to only a minute or two for USB devices. Your notebook must support ECP parallel-port mode (nearly universal today) to permit connection to the device, and you may have to activate ECP in your system BIOS.

Transferring files is done with the Yepp's straightforward Explorer software. Our review unit came with version 1.1 of Explorer, though, which didn't let us connect. After we downloaded and installed version 1.2 (from ***www.samsungyepp.com/support.html***), the Yepp and the PC worked well together. MP3 files can be played on the PC using the included RealJukebox. The Yepp uses two AAA batteries that last about 20 hours with frequent use.

And the Yepp's sound quality will encourage frequent use. Besides four standard equalizer settings (normal, jazz, rock, and classical), the Yepp offers 3D-audio features for a richer, fuller sound.

The Samsung Yepp YP-E64 provides all the features and quality its intended users expect, though some may object to its sluggish file-transfer speeds.

—*Raymond M. Padilla*

★★★

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Can store and play multiple audio files; 3D equalizer feature

Slow transfer technology

PRODUCT: Samsung Yepp YP-E64
COMPANY: Samsung Electronics America Ridgefield, NJ; 800-726-7864 *www.samsungyepp.com*
MFR. EST. PRICE: $249.99

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SOFTWARE

HALLMARK CARD STUDIO DELUXE

A Card for All Occasions

beta

Need a card for that special event, but don't have the time to stop by the store to get one? Don't sweat it. SierraHome's Hallmark Card Studio Deluxe brings the store to you.

Hallmark Card Studio lets you design professional-quality greeting cards quickly and easily. Using the Find-a-Card feature, you can sort through the program's extensive full-color greeting-card templates, or select the Art Studio function to design your own cards, envelopes, labels, stickers, and calendars from scratch. You can also import your own graphics, including digital photos, or make your selection from the generous assortment of included clip art. The program's basic toolset lets you crop, rotate, stretch, tilt, combine, or otherwise manipulate your image with a remarkable degree of ease. You can also add text using the many available fonts, altering size, color, style, and placement with a few simple mouse clicks.

Another nice touch is an automated event planner and address book that reminds you several days in advance to prepare for special occasions. Moreover, if you're not satisfied with the vast selection of included images, you can purchase more art from SierraHome's Web site. Once you've created an item that is to your liking, you can print it out or send it as an easy-to-view full-color e-card. Parents concerned about the adult nature of some greetings can use the software's lockout feature to prevent the kids from chancing upon risqué material. The program even prints the familiar Hallmark insignia and bar code, so they'll know you cared enough to send the very best. *(SierraHome; $49.95; **www.sierrahome.com**)*

—*Avital Fryman*

PENTAZIP 4.1

Getting More for ZIP

PentaWare's PentaZip 4.1 is a fast, powerful, and easy-to-use file-compression utility with enhanced features that make it highly competitive with better-established products. Like many of its competitors, PentaZip uses a point-and-click, drag-and-drop interface similar to Windows Explorer that lets you easily compress, decompress, sort, and otherwise manage files in ZIP archives, potentially freeing up enormous amounts of disk space in the process. Unlike its competitors, PentaZip includes a viewer that lets you display the contents of most compressed files without using the program that initially created them, including more than 40 text, graphic, and multimedia file formats.

Compatible with 14 different compression formats, PentaZip is capable of converting most of these formats into a ZIP archive. PentaZip also lets you convert compressed files into self-extracting files with an EXE extension, making it possible to transfer zipped documents to users lacking decompression utilities, either by e-mail or on disk. And because extracting unfamiliar files carries with it the risk of viruses, it's important to scan such files while they are still compressed. PentaZip, therefore, automatically runs your antivirus software for you, once you've configured it to do so.

An included scheduler, combined with PentaZip's powerful scripting features, lets you create self-running file backups and manage other repetitive tasks on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. Other features include archive repair and, for old-school PKZIP fans, the familiar MS-DOS command-line interface. All things considered, PentaZip is a worthwhile purchase. *(PentaWare; $39.95; **www.pentazip.com**)*

—*A. F.*

MUSICMATCH JUKEBOX 5.0

Make the Most of MP3

Best Buy July 2000

Lost in all the hype about MP3 downloads is the importance of finding a good MP3 jukebox player. Enter MusicMatch Jukebox 5.0, arguably the best available software for collecting, organizing, and listening to your audio CDs and MP3, WAV, and Windows Media Audio (WMA) files.

MusicMatch is easy to install and use. A free version of the software is available for downloading from the company's Web site. For $29.99, you can upgrade to the Plus version, which gives you additional features such as up to six-times-faster CD-burning speeds, the ability to create CD jewel-case inserts from within the program, and a 10-band graphic equalizer with selectable and customizable presets.

One of MusicMatch's biggest strengths is the way it organizes your audio files. You can sort songs by 17 different criteria, and the simple drag-and-drop interface lets you add and organize files in individual playlists. You can also edit the tag information of any file to change fields such as artist name, album title, or song title. If you lack some information about a track, MusicMatch can automatically download it for you from the Internet.

MusicMatch 5.0 provides several new features designed to make any music lover's life easier. For example, by cataloging playlists that are voluntarily uploaded to the company's Web site by MusicMatch users, the software can make recommendations to you based on your own listening preferences. You can customize the program with a variety of themes and visual effects, and you can burn CD-Rs directly from the program—essentially letting you make data or audio discs with the click of a mouse. This new version of MusicMatch even lets you listen to hundreds of Internet radio stations.

For those looking to get maximum enjoyment out of their MP3 files, MusicMatch Jukebox 5.0 just plain rocks. *(MusicMatch; free; **www.musicmatch.com**)*

—*Xavier W. Niz*

PAPER CONVERTER FOR FRONTPAGE 2000

Eliminate the Paper Trail

Converting printed media for use on the Internet is often a time-consuming and arduous task. But now there's a tool specifically designed to make the job easier—at least for users of Microsoft FrontPage 2000. ScanSoft's Paper Converter for FrontPage 2000 is essentially an OCR program, but it has added features that make it uniquely suited for online applications. Paper Converter can take any scanned page, with any combination of text, pictures, and tables, and convert it to an editable, true-to-life HTML file. Using Paper Converter is as easy as using any OCR program, and you can launch it from within the FrontPage 2000 interface. The software produces surprisingly clean code and includes several OCR improvements that let you eliminate background tint, recognize smudged characters, and view scanned tables and spreadsheets as editable table cells. *(ScanSoft; $49.95; **www.scansoft.com**)*

—*Richard Douek*

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	code
Hallmark Card Studio Deluxe	29678
MusicMatch Jukebox 5.0	29668
Paper Converter for FrontPage 2000	29680
PentaZip 4.1	29681

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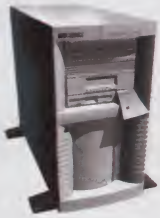

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SOFTWARE

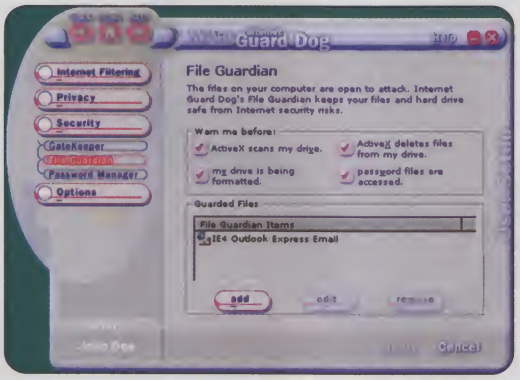
MCAFEE INTERNET GUARD DOG 3.0

Sic the Dog on Web Security Risks

IT SEEMS THAT THE INTERNET IS A MORE DANGEROUS place than ever, where thieves and con artists abound. Much of that danger may be exaggerated, but smart surfers take steps to protect themselves online. One program that can help is McAfee's Internet Guard Dog 3.0, a comprehensive suite designed to protect your privacy and security online.

Guard Dog's quick installation process leads you directly into its straightforward configuration wizard, which helps you set up and customize your privacy and security settings. When you're finished setting up your user accounts, Guard Dog performs a security check on your computer to identify any problems and help you eliminate them.

Online, Guard Dog's security features safeguard your Internet connection and protect your files. The Gatekeeper function lets you control which programs can access your Internet connection, and alerts you to sites that are known security risks before you visit them. The File Guardian feature, meanwhile, protects your data from being tampered with and prevents potentially harmful ActiveX scripts from damaging your files.



Guard Dog is just as ferocious when it comes to protecting your privacy. The Cookie Blocker identifies the type of cookie downloaded to your system and alerts you if it comes from a site other than the one you're visiting. The Identity Protector prevents your computer from sending personal information across the Internet, and the Web Trail function lets you remove cached files, site histories, and visited URLs.

Guard Dog also provides several features that protect you while browsing, such as the ability to block offensive Web sites and chat sessions, as well as unwanted banner ads. The software comes bundled with McAfee's VirusScan, which lets you check downloaded files for viruses. It's not integrated into Guard Dog, however, and must be used separately. Guard Dog also lacks a personal firewall program to protect you from hacker attacks on your system—a gaping hole in this otherwise comprehensive solution.

Internet Guard Dog 3.0 is a good first step in securing your computer from online threats. But without an integrated firewall product, Guard Dog is still more bark than bite. —*Xavier W. Niz*

★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Easy to use; blocks ActiveX controls; supports multiple users with customizable security settings

Lacks firewall protection; antivirus program not integrated

PRODUCT: McAfee Internet Guard Dog 3.0
COMPANY: McAfee
Santa Clara, CA
800-338-8754, 972-308-9960
www.mcafee.com
REQUIRES: 32MB RAM; 20MB hard drive space; Windows 95, 98, or 2000
MFR. EST. PRICE: $39

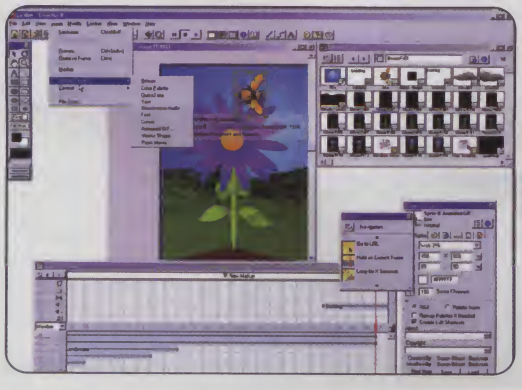
ZD Net Price It!™ 29685
For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

MACROMEDIA DIRECTOR 8 SHOCKWAVE STUDIO

A Masterful Multimedia Maker

WHETHER YOU WANT TO SPICE UP A PRESENTATION, create a training video, or add some multimedia elements to a lackluster Web site, Macromedia Director 8 Shockwave Studio will give you the tools you need.

Director 8 features a new context-sensitive Property Inspector, designed to simplify the interface and replace the poorly designed and confusing dialog boxes that plagued previous versions. With it, you can tweak the settings for all types of media, such as vector shapes, objects, movies, sounds, and behaviors. Director's traditional work area, the Stage, shows what the viewer will see when the animation runs. To create a Director movie, drag the "cast members" (images, sounds, videos, and text) to the Stage and define their behaviors along timelines. Just about anything can be part of a Director animation. The program lets you import animated GIF, AVI, and QuickTime files, and composite them with Director elements; add and edit sound clips and Flash files; attach Java behaviors; and create interactive forms. You can also output optimized files in all popular animation formats, as well as HTML and Java code for embedding Web pages.



Despite its improvements, Director still has an incredibly steep learning curve, a result of its powerful scripting language, Lingo, and an extensible architecture that can mesh with ActiveX controls, JavaScript, C, or C++. What's more, its interface has carried over some small annoyances from earlier versions, such as a single undo level, no support for the cursor keys on the numeric keypad, and randomly assorted commands between the working window toolbar and the menus.

Its frustrations aside, Director 8 delivers a massive amount of creative potential. It's the ideal tool for putting together everything from interactive presentations to collaborative Web activities such as online games and auctions.

—*Susan Glinert*

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Sophisticated animation and Web-graphics output; pinpoint control over every aspect of animations

Ultrasteep learning curve; complex toolset; minor interface flaws

PRODUCT: Macromedia Director 8 Shockwave Studio
COMPANY: Macromedia
San Francisco, CA
800-457-1774, 415-252-2000
www.macromedia.com
REQUIRES: 32MB RAM; 100MB hard drive space. Windows: 200MHz Pentium-compatible CPU or faster; Windows 95, 98, 2000, or NT 4.0. Macintosh: 180MHz PowerPC or faster; Mac OS 8.1 or later
MFR. EST. PRICE: $999 (full version); $399 (upgrade from Director 7); $499 (upgrade from Director 5, 6, or 6.5)

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SOFTWARE

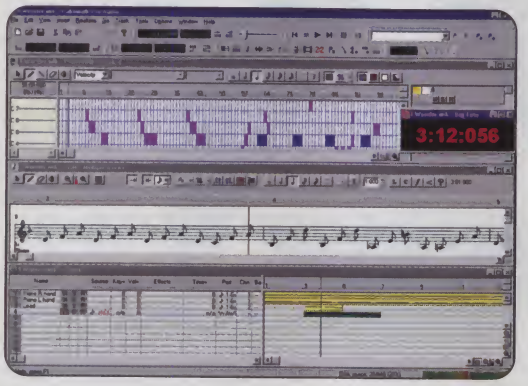
CAKEWALK PRO AUDIO 9

Mighty MIDI Music Maker

Best Buy July 2000

CAKEWALK PRO AUDIO 9 DOES IT ALL. LIKE ITS predecessors, this powerful music-production package makes it easy to create complex scores that blend MIDI data with audio files. This latest release features 24-bit 96KHz recording capabilities, lightning-quick response times, and stable operation, as well as support for MP3, RealNetworks' G2, and Windows Streaming Media audio formats.

Cakewalk Pro Audio 9 retains the trademark Cakewalk interface, providing a half-dozen ways to view and edit your music. Its Track View displays MIDI parts and up to 128 audio files as though they were tracks on a tape recorder, and the greatly improved Console View lets you mix parts and route effects like a traditional studio mixing console. You can edit notes graphically by dragging them around a grid in the multitrack Piano Roll View and transcribe your music into standard score notation in the Staff View. You'll also find a good selection of sound-processing tools and special effects in the integrated Audio View Soundfile editor. Cakewalk even provides an assortment of sophisticated tools and plug-ins that can translate audio recordings into MIDI files, automatically generate percussion parts, and add a human feel to otherwise mechanical-sounding MIDI sequences.



Best of all, Cakewalk now incorporates the company's WavePipe technology, which significantly improves response time when remixing or changing effects parameters during playback. The program further boosts performance by supporting the open AudioX standard, which enables compatible sound cards, such as Yamaha's popular DSP Factory, to accelerate DSP-based functions such as SMPTE synchronization, real-time effects, and multitrack mixing. In our hands-on evaluation, Cakewalk produced solid MIDI/audio synchronization and almost instantaneous response time on a variety of testbeds. When playing just a handful of MIDI and audio tracks, it generated flawless output even on an ancient 90MHz Pentium-based system.

Fast, stable, and flexible, Cakewalk Pro Audio 9 is one of the most powerful MIDI/audio packages for Windows. It's an excellent choice for almost any music-production project. —*Don Labriola*

★★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Excellent performance; MP3 support; large feature set

Interface can get cluttered on monitors smaller than 19 inches

PRODUCT: Cakewalk Pro Audio 9
COMPANY: Twelve Tone Systems
Cambridge, MA; 800-234-1171
www.cakewalk.com
REQUIRES: 200MHz Pentium-class CPU (300MHz for Windows NT); 64MB RAM (128MB for Windows NT); 30MB hard drive space; MIDI interface or sound card (AudioX compliance recommended); Windows 95 or 98, or NT 4.0 with Service Pack 5
MFR. EST. PRICE: $379

ZDNet Price It!™ 29662

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

MEDIASTUDIO PRO 6.0

Give Yourself Two Thumbs Up

ULEAD'S MEDIASTUDIO PRO 6.0 MIGHT BE THE FIRST serious competition Adobe Premiere has ever had. In addition to an intuitive, customizable interface and broad functionality, this $499-estimated video-production package includes advanced features such as FireWire support and the ability to edit digital video (DV) and MPEG video in their native formats.

Like Premiere, MediaStudio's workstation-style interface lets you produce footage by simply dragging video clips, effects, and transitions onto a timeline. The program's many Windows Explorer-style galleries, toolbars, and other modules can be either locked into a tiled desktop or easily dragged around the screen to suit your mood.

MediaStudio Pro 6.0 is among the first Windows programs to support the IEEE 1394 (also known as iLink or FireWire) interface found on new digital camcorders. Using 1394's remote-control functions, MediaStudio requires only a few clicks to import high-quality DV from a MiniDV or Digital 8 camcorder. Sophisticated plug-in filters also let you capture raw footage from a VCR or analog camera as compressed MPEG-1 or MPEG-2 video, convenient since the program can now edit video clips in native DV, MPEG-1, and MPEG-2 formats.

MediaStudio Pro performs better than ever due to its SmartRender rendering engine, which intelligently recompresses only those frames that have been altered. In our tests, we found that SmartRender boosted performance as much as 75 percent over last year's version 5.2. MediaStudio Pro 6.0 also includes a decent sound-file editor, MP3 support, a powerful animated titling module, dual-monitor capabilities, and a cool video paint module that lets you use natural-media brushes to create spectacular effects.

MediaStudio is optimized for the Pentium III instruction set, and it performed sluggishly on our 450MHz Pentium II system. If you routinely edit DV files, you ought to consider running it on a Pentium III. Despite its hefty hardware requirements, MediaStudio has *matured* from an also-ran into one of the most powerful video-production solutions available for the Windows platform. —*D.L.*

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

FireWire support; native DV editing; customizable interface

Requires a Pentium III for optimal output

PRODUCT: MediaStudio Pro 6.0
COMPANY: Ulead Systems
Torrance, CA; 800-858-5323
www.ulead.com
REQUIRES: MMX Pentium or faster (optimized for Pentium III); 32MB RAM (64MB recommended); 70MB hard drive space; video capture/playback board recommended; Windows 95, 98, 2000, or NT 4.0 (DV capture requires Windows 98 Second Edition or 2000)
MFR. EST. PRICE: $499

ZDNet Price It!™ 29665

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GAMES

MICROSOFT BASEBALL 2001

Redmond's Double Play

Bill Gates' Redmond club has gotten this year's virtual baseball season off to a rousing start with the release of Microsoft Baseball 2001. With all 30 Major League teams on board, 35 fastidiously rendered stadiums (including four new ones such as Pacific Bell Park and Enron Field), and improved player AI, Baseball 2001 has a clear shot at the PC pennant race.

Like last year's Baseball 2000, the game supports 3D acceleration in both hardware and software, so you don't need a high-powered 3D card to play. It also retains the popular Home Run Derby, which lets you challenge another player to a home-run slugfest in any ballpark, and QuickGame mode, which cuts back on the between-play embellishments to provide faster innings.

But Baseball 2001 packs some new additions as well—most notably, Infinite Monkey Systems' text-based Baseball Mogul simulation engine. Evidently, the Microsoft coaches listened to last year's critics, who took Baseball 2000 to task for its lack of logistics—particularly the inability to initiate trades. Now, in your role as general manager, you can groom your team over several seasons, simulate several games at once, and track everything from player salaries to team expenses.

Nevertheless, Baseball 2001 leaves some room for improvement in its actual gameplay. Although the players look real enough, their movements are still somewhat jerky. We also found the pitching and batting controls a bit awkward. It hasn't yet caught up to last year's world champion, 3DO's High Heat, but Baseball 2001 is very much still in the game.

(Microsoft Corp.; $34.95; ***www.microsoft.com/sports****)*

—A. Paul Healy

STAR WARS: FORCE COMMANDER

The Rebels Win Again

Those moviegoers who regard *Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace* as one of the biggest disappointments of 1999 may also consider LucasArts' Star Wars: Force Commander as one of the major gaming letdowns of 2000. What seemed like a can't-miss idea—a real-time strategy (RTS) game based on *Star Wars* ground battles—arrives as an uninspired and dated-looking clinker.

To its credit, Force Commander does a few things right, such as putting you in control of Imperial forces for a change. (Most Star Wars games link you to the Rebellion.) As a brash young captain in the Imperial Alliance, you'll attempt to wipe out rebels and rebel bases by deploying Stormtroopers, speeder bikes, AT-AT walkers, and other familiar units.

Borrowing heavily from the RTS game Myth, Force Commander employs a free-floating camera that can move, pivot, and zoom in countless ways. Unfortunately, this detracts from the gameplay. Force Commander would work better with a fixed, Command & Conquer-style interface. Instead of enjoying the spectacle of battle, you spend your time trying to find the best viewing angle and zoom level.

The bigger problem is Force Commander's graphics, which are surprisingly unattractive. Blocky units and structures, muted colors, dull explosions, mismatched terrain—it all adds up to one big eyesore. Clipping problems abound, and units often move through solid objects.

Nevertheless, Star Wars: Force Commander's overall gameplay is actually pretty good, with an interesting command-point system that takes the place of resource gathering. But fighting with the camera and looking at the god-awful terrain tarnish the experience. Long live the Rebellion.

(LucasArts; $39.95; ***www.lucasarts.com****)*

—Rick Broida

THE IRON PLAGUE

A Key to the Kingdoms

For any successful real-time strategy game, expansion packs are as inevitable as waves in the sea. So we weren't surprised by the arrival of The Iron Plague, an add-on for Cavedog's Total Annihilation Kingdoms. But whereas most expansion packs include only new units and multiplayer maps, Iron Plague adds a whole new race, increasing the game's total to five.

Iron Plague's Creonites employ DaVinci-esque science and technology, an interesting contrast to the other four races' swords and sorcery. A handful of new units have been added to the other races as well, but the excellent power balance remains intact.

In addition, Iron Plague delivers the obligatory new multiplayer maps—more than two dozen of them—and an impressive 25 new single-player missions. Players who enjoy online competition will appreciate The Darien Crusades, a new cooperative multiplayer game hosted by Cavedog's Boneyards service. Better than most add-on packs, The Iron Plague is a must-have for Kingdoms fans.

(Cavedog Entertainment; $19.99; ***www.cavedog.com****)*

—R.B.

SUPERBIKE 2000

No Easy Riders Here

Best Buy July 2000

If you like dangerous curves at high speeds, Superbike 2000 from EA Sports is your game. For the uninitiated, Superbike is the motorcycle equivalent of Formula 1 racing, with wide, twisty asphalt tracks and a championship-style circuit race structure. However, driving on two wheels is far more challenging than driving on four—and as it happens, a lot more fun as well.

Featuring 20 champion riders, 13 licensed international tracks, and six real-world cycles, Superbike delivers a complete and authentic-feeling simulation. Much of the credit goes to the game's exquisitely detailed graphics, which include motion-captured riders that have to be seen to be believed. You'll find additional realism in the splendid sound effects and TV-like race commentary.

Superbike also lets you tweak an amazing number of race and gameplay options, ranging from bike damage and engine failure to weather effects. Alas, most riders will need to leave the driving "assists" turned on, because the bikes are extremely difficult to control without them. One of our favorite features is the race-replay mode, which lets you watch the action from a variety of breathtaking camera angles and save races for later viewing.

Multiplayer options include a two-player split-screen mode and Internet racing for up to eight players. Unfortunately, LAN play is tricky because the game does not support the IPX protocol, and finding an Internet game requires you to know the game host's IP address.

Fix these problems, and Superbike 2000 would earn the pole position. As it stands, it's a gorgeous-looking game and a thrilling cycle-racing experience.

(EA Sports; $39.95; www.easports.com)

—R.B.

ZDNet Price It!™	code
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Microsoft Baseball 2001	29679
Star Wars: Force Commander	29661
Superbike 2000	29663

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SPEEDSTEP NOTEBOOKS

CHARGED

SPEED NOTEBOOKS

Intel's SpeedStep technology benefits some notebooks more than others. Even so, all six of these 650MHz Pentium III portables are long-lasting travel companions.

BY ASA SOMERS

Ever since the earliest days of mobile computing, notebook users have had to walk a fine line between computing power and battery life, always mindful that the two were inversely proportional. Battery technology has seen only incremental improvements over the years, while processors have evolved faster than anyone could have imagined. As a result, notebook manufacturers have had to rely on dual-battery designs and other tricks to deliver the performance users demand without subjecting them to portables that need recharging every half hour.

The most recent development in power management comes in the form of Intel's SpeedStep technology, formerly code-named Geyserville. Featured at press time only in high-end Pentium III processors running at 600MHz and 650MHz, SpeedStep changes the voltage to the processor, which, in turn, alters the clock speed—essentially letting you trade CPU performance for battery life. (By the time you read this, units with 700MHz and 750MHz SpeedStep CPUs are expected to be shipping.)

Our tests found SpeedStep's effectiveness to be something of a mixed bag, however. On average, the units experienced a 10 percent, or 21-minute, increase in battery life when switched from maximum-performance mode to battery-optimized mode. But the implementation of the technology varied dramatically from one unit to the next. For example, one notebook in our group yielded a 50-minute gain, while two systems were only able to eke out about 10 minutes more in battery-optimized mode.

< FACT FILE >

Category Tested	SpeedStep Notebooks
Price Range	$2,599 to $3,799
Minimum Configuration	650MHz Pentium III processor, 128MB SDRAM, 15-inch TFT display, 8MB graphics RAM, 12GB hard drive, 6x DVD-ROM drive
Companies Included	Acer America, Compaq Computer Corp., Dell Computer Corp., Gateway, Quantex Microsystems, Windrover Co.

SPEEDSTEP NOTEBOOKS

You can easily configure a SpeedStep-enabled processor using a new tab in the standard Power control panel in Windows, additional settings in the CMOS setup dialog, or the application found in the taskbar. If you'd rather not deal with these changes, you can rely on the default setting, which automatically switches modes whenever the power source changes. When plugged into AC power, the processor will run in maximum-performance mode; when running on battery power, the processor shifts into battery-optimized mode.

STEPPING OUT

This new processor technology, combined with the latest CPU speeds, provided us with an excellent reason to take a look at the latest batch of desktop-replacement notebooks. We received six of these formidable portables, packing nearly every feature you could possibly hope for and weighing in at 8 pounds or more.

The largest unit in this roundup is the Gateway Solo 9300CX, which boasts the most features in the group and a 15.7-inch display—the largest on the market. The Dell Inspiron 5000, meanwhile, has a 15-inch display, but its 1,400x1,050 resolution makes you think you have more desktop real estate than you actually do. For those long road trips, the Acer TravelMate 736TL has got you covered in spades with more than 4 hours of battery life in performance mode. Compaq's Presario 1800-XL 650 is the most Internet-friendly unit of the group, with Internet-centric hot buttons and links to technical support and shopping sites right on the desktop. If keeping cost down is a major concern, Quantex's W-1511 and Windrover's Navigator 150PT sub-$3,000 offerings might be the ticket. Although these two notebooks are similar to the Dell unit (all three were manufactured by Taiwanese OEM Compal), each emphasizes different features and price points.

Each of the systems included here is configured with a SpeedStep-enabled 650MHz Pentium III processor, 128MB of SDRAM, a 12GB or larger hard drive, a screen measuring 15 inches or larger, a DVD drive, and 8MB of graphics RAM. To accommodate all of these components, all six notebooks have a three-spindle design, so they can house a floppy, DVD-ROM, and hard drive simultaneously. In most cases, these components were fixed rather than occupying modular bays.

< FEATURE COMPARISON >

	Acer TravelMate 736TL	Compaq Presario 1800-XL 650	Dell Inspiron 5000	Gateway Solo 9300CX	Quantex W-1511 Best Buy
DIRECT PRICE AS TESTED	$3,699 (mfr. est.)	$3,048	$3,476	$3,799	$2,749
CONFIGURATION					
Processor	650MHz Pentium III	650MHz Pentium III	650MHz Pentium III	650MHz Pentium III	650MHz Pentium III
SDRAM Installed/Maximum*	128MB/256MB	128MB/320MB	128MB/512MB	128MB/288MB	128MB/256MB
Dimensions (HWD, Inches)	1.4x12.7x10.6	1.7x13.0x11.1	1.6x12.9x10.5	1.6x13.1x11.3	1.6x12.8x10.5
System Weight/Travel Weight** (Pounds)	7.1/7.9	7.5/8.3	7.8/8.8	8.6/9.4	7.6/8.5
TFT Screen Size (Inches)/Native Resolution	15.0/1,024x768	15.0/1,024x768	15.0/1,400x1,050	15.7/1,280x1,024	15.0/1,024x768
Graphics Accelerator/RAM Installed	ATI Rage Mobility-LT/8MB	ATI Rage Mobility-M1/8MB	ATI Rage Mobility-P/8MB	ATI Rage Mobility-P/8MB	ATI Rage Mobility-P/8MB
Hard Drive Rated Size/Manufacturer/rpm*	18GB/IBM/4,200	12GB/multisourced/7,200	12GB/Fujitsu/4,200	18GB/Hitachi/4,200	12GB/Toshiba/4,200
Floppy and DVD-ROM Drives Can Coexist Internally	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
DVD-ROM Drive Manufacturer and Speed (DVD/CD)*	Toshiba 6x DVD/24x CD	Pioneer 6x DVD/24x CD	Toshiba 8x DVD/24x CD	TEAC 6x DVD/24x CD	Toshiba 6x DVD/24x CD
DVD/MPEG-2 Decoder Type/Manufacturer	Software/Mediamatics DVDExpress	Software/Mediamatics DVDExpress	Software/Ravisent CineMaster 98	Software/Divicore	Software/Ravisent CineMaster 99
High-Capacity Removable-Media Drive	None	None	None	LS-120 (Matsushita)	None
Sound Processor*	ESS Solo-1	JBL Pro Performance	ESS Maestro-2E	ESS Maestro-2E	ESS Maestro-2E
Modem/Ethernet	Yes/yes	Yes/yes	Yes/no	Yes/no	Yes/no
Pointing Device	Touch pad	Touch pad	Touch pad	Touch pad	Touch pad
External Ports	Parallel, serial, expansion, VGA, PS/2, USB, S-Video, Fast IR, modem, Ethernet	Parallel, serial, expansion, VGA, PS/2, USB, S-Video, Fast IR, modem, Ethernet	Parallel, serial, expansion, VGA, PS/2, USB, S-Video, Fast IR, modem	Parallel, serial, expansion, VGA, PS/2, two USB, S-Video, Fast IR, modem, IEEE 1394, Dolby Digital out, composite video in and out	Parallel, serial, expansion, VGA, PS/2, USB, S-Video, Fast IR, modem
Audio Connectors	Microphone, audio in and out	Microphone, headphone	Microphone, headphone, audio in	Microphone, headphone, audio in	Microphone, headphone, audio in
PC Card Slots	Two Type II or one Type III	Two Type II or one Type III	Two Type II or one Type III	Two Type II or one Type III	Two Type II or one Type III
Docking-Station/Port-Replicator Option*	Docking station ($320)	Port replicator ($99)	Port replicator ($259)	Port replicator ($149), docking station ($299)	Port replicator ($149)
Includes Carrying Case	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Max. Number of Installed Batteries	One	One	Two	One	Two
Rated Battery Charge Time With System Off/On*	4 hours/6 to 8 hours	Company would not provide	1.5 hours/3 hours	Company would not provide	1 hour/2 hours
SOFTWARE INCLUDED	Microsoft Works 2000, TimeMachine, Trend, PC-cillin 98, PC Doctor, Puma Intellisync	Microsoft Works 2000, Microsoft Money 2000, McAfee VirusScan, RioPort Audio Manager	Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business, Norton AntiVirus	Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business	Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business
SERVICE AND SUPPORT*					
Money-Back Guarantee/Restocking Fee	Varies/none	Yes/none	Yes/none	Yes/none	Yes/none
Standard Warranty (Parts and Labor)	One year	One year	Three years plus onsite	One year	One year
Extended/Upgraded Warranties	$99 extends parts and labor to two years; $198 extends parts and labor to three years	$199 extends parts and labor to three years	None	$100 extends parts and labor to three years; $299 adds three years onsite	$220 extends parts and labor to three years
Live Toll-Free Tech-Support Hours	24 hours daily	24 hours daily	24 hours daily	24 hours daily	24 hours daily
Online Tech Support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Who Pays for Shipping Under Warranty	Vendor pays both ways	Vendor pays both ways	Vendor pays both ways	Customer pays one way	Vendor pays both ways

* = According to vendor or manufacturer
** = Includes weight of floppy and CD-ROM drives, battery, and AC adapter

SPEEDSTEP NOTEBOOKS

SO NICE, WE TEST 'EM TWICE

Because SpeedStep technology dynamically alters the way a notebook allocates power, all of our test suites were run in both maximum-performance and battery-optimized modes to get a sense of how much performance you give up and how much battery life you gain.

In terms of overall system performance, all but one of the units experienced double-digit decreases going from the maximum-performance mode to battery-optimized mode. On average, Business Winstone 99 results declined by 10.5 percent, while Business Graphics WinMark 99 performance fell almost 14 percent. The Acer system took the biggest hit in overall performance, with an approximate 13 percent drop, while the Quantex displayed the least measurable difference at 9 percent. In battery-optimized mode (500MHz), the benchmark performance of all units was comparable to that of non-SpeedStep-enabled 500MHz Pentium III-based notebooks.

In general, the major areas of distinction for these units are price, features, and battery life. Prices for our evaluation systems varied dramatically, from $2,599 for the Windrover to $3,799 for the Gateway. Battery life also noticeably varied, from more than 4 hours for the Acer (in maximum-performance mode) to just under 3 hours for the Dell Inspiron (also in maximum-performance mode). Overall system performance, however, was about equal.

Even if it's still a bit underused in this first incarnation, SpeedStep may yet establish itself as a real advance in mobile computing. Putting more choice into the hands of users to allocate their notebooks' resources is unequivocally a good thing. In fact, Intel rival AMD plans to introduce similar technology in its mobile processors, too. It all translates into longer battery life, even if battery technology itself doesn't evolve for a long while.

Windrover Navigator 150PT
$2,599
650MHz Pentium III
128MB/256MB
1.6x12.7x10.2
7.6/8.5
15.0/1,024x768
ATI Rage Mobility-P/8MB
12GB/Toshiba/4,200
Yes
Toshiba 6x DVD/24x CD
Software/Mediamatics DVDExpress
LS-120 (Matsushita)
ESS Maestro-2E
Yes/no
Touch pad
Parallel, serial, expansion, VGA, PS/2, USB, S-Video, Fast IR, modem
Microphone, headphone, audio in
Two Type II or one Type III
None
Yes
Two
1.5 hours/3 hours
Microsoft Works 2000, Microsoft Money 2000
Yes/none
One year
$199 extends parts and labor to three years
24 hours daily
Yes
Customer pays one way

Best Buy July 2000

Although identical in appearance to new SpeedStep models from Dell and Windrover, the $2,749-direct **Quantex W-1511** offers the best meeting of price and performance.

NOTEWORTHY

Home users searching for a full-featured SpeedStep notebook should check out Compaq's $3,048-direct **Presario 1800-XL 650.** In addition to its dedicated Internet and CD keys, this smartly styled system features a fast 7,200-rpm hard drive, Ethernet and modem ports, and a generous software bundle.

ACER TRAVELMATE 736TL ★★★★

PROS: Superior battery life; Ethernet port; S-Video input; business-oriented software package
CONS: Expensive; one-year warranty

For years, Acer's notebooks have distinguished themselves from the crowd by deploying aggressive power-management technology, resulting in incredibly long battery life. The TravelMate 736TL is no exception. It outlasted the other five notebooks here by a wide margin, nearly 50 minutes longer than our second-place finisher, the Gateway Solo, on our BatteryMark 3.0 test. But its long battery life does not come at the cost of portability; the unit comes in at 7.9 pounds and 1.4x12.7x10.6 inches (HWD), making it the lightest and smallest in the group. You will end up paying for this longer life, however. The TravelMate's $3,699 estimated price is the second highest in the group.

SpeedStep technology also seems to make more of a difference in the TravelMate than in the other models in our roundup. The Acer notebook lasted 4 hours and 19 minutes in maximum-performance mode, which extended to a group-leading 5 hours and 9 minutes when we switched to battery-optimized mode.

Also, this notebook's 18GB hard drive was one of the two largest in the group. The TravelMate also ships with such goodies as a built-in Ethernet card and an S-Video port.

Its 6x DVD-ROM drive, 8MB of graphics RAM, and Mediamatics DVDExpress software didn't cooperate fully, however. Video playback suffered from mild pixelation in dark areas and an annoying vertical band of distortion that came and went. And though the unit's 15-inch display looked good overall, it had two stuck pixels right in the middle of the screen.

Audio quality from the stereo speakers embedded in the curved lid was crisp and, thanks to the placement of the speakers behind the screen, really gave the impression of sound coming directly from the onscreen action. The top volume setting was never earsplitting, and we noticed very

Acer TravelMate 736TL, Compaq Presario 1800-XL 650, Dell Inspiron 5000

SPEEDSTEP NOTEBOOKS

Gateway Solo 9300CX, Quantex W-1511, Windrover Navigator 150PT

little distortion.

Navigation is not a problem, either, thanks to the responsive Synaptics touch pad and the center rocker button, which is designed to let you scroll in certain Windows applications (although this feature was not working in our evaluation model).

The TravelMate's target corporate audience won't bemoan the notebook's marginally slower application performance and will appreciate the bundled TimeMachine image-recovery software, which lets you take a snapshot of the unit's disk image to use as a reference in case you have to reformat the hard drive. Acer's standard one-year warranty may raise an eyebrow, but it can be upgraded to two or three years.

COMPAQ PRESARIO 1800-XL 650

★★★★

PROS: Stylish case design; good software selection; Internet-centric help and CD-launch buttons; Ethernet port

CONS: One-year warranty; missing CD utility

The snappy, consumer-oriented Compaq Presario 1800-XL 650 breathes fresh air into this stodgy assortment of mostly buttoned-down, black and battleship-gray boxes. Featuring all the desktop-replacement hardware you could ever wish for, the $3,048-direct Compaq dolls up the Presario in a stylish package. The notebook also takes a cue from the critically acclaimed Presario desktop line, adding plenty of Internet-oriented and ease-of-use features to enhance your computing experience.

The Presario modulates its basic-black appearance with a metallic-blue lid and an elegant curved wrist rest, which also houses its stereo speakers. A row of dedicated Internet buttons, providing one-touch access to favorite sites and applications, lines the top of the keyboard, and Compaq's DisqPlay² CD control center resides beneath the touch pad. The Internet buttons are user-configurable, and the CD controls promise full control over music playback. (Our evaluation unit did not ship with the proper CD software installed, which prevented us from testing the DisqPlay² features.) Other nice touches include built-in modem and Ethernet ports, a 12GB 7,200-rpm hard drive, and a 6x Pioneer DVD-ROM drive.

Video playback on the Presario's 15-inch

< COMPUTER SHOPPER BENCHMARKS >

HIGHER SCORES ARE BETTER	Acer TravelMate 736TL	Compaq Presario 1800-XL 650	Dell Inspiron 5000	Gateway Solo 9300CX	Quantex W-1511 (Best Buy)	Windrover Navigator 150PT
PROCESSOR TYPE	650MHz Pentium III	650MHz Pentium III	650MHz Pentium III	650MHz Pentium III	650MHz Pentium III	650MHz Pentium III
SYSTEM MEMORY	128MB	128MB	128MB	128MB	128MB	128MB
NATIVE RESOLUTION	1,024x768	1,024x768	1,400x1,050	1,280x1,024	1,024x768	1,024x768
APPLICATIONS PERFORMANCE						
Business Winstone 99						
Performance/Battery-Optimized Mode	24.8/21.5	25.3/22.4	24.9/22.3	25.9/23.4	25.4/23.2	26.2/23.7
BATTERY LIFE						
BatteryMark 3.0*						
Performance/Battery-Optimized Mode	4:19/5:09	3:04/3:23	2:57/3:14	3:31/3:42	3:25/3:35	3:22/3:38
PROCESSOR SUBSYSTEM						
CPUmark 99**						
Performance/Battery-Optimized Mode	58.9/47.0	58.6/46.8	59.0/47.0	58.3/46.6	58.9/47.0	59.5/47.3
GRAPHICS SUBSYSTEM						
Business Graphics WinMark 99						
16.8 Million Colors @ 1,024x768						
Performance/Battery-Optimized Mode	172/149	160/138	181/155	183/159	172/148	194/166
3D WinMark 2000						
65,536 Colors @ 800x600						
Performance/Battery-Optimized Mode	13.3/13.3	14.1/13.9	14.4/14.2	14.4/14.2	14.5/14.3	14.5/14.3
DISK SUBSYSTEM						
Business Disk WinMark 99						
Performance/Battery-Optimized Mode	2,750/2,665	2,330/2,255	2,710/2,635	2,260/2,210	2,290/2,435	2,395/2,335

* = BatteryMark 3.0 results are not comparable with BatteryMark 2.0 results ** = CPUmark 99 scores are not comparable with $CPUmark_{32}$ scores

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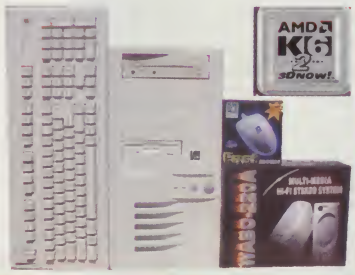

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screen was smooth and richly toned, although it wasn't quite as sharp as that of the Dell or Gateway units. The LCD supports a maximum 1,024x768 resolution at 32-bit color, a comfortable fit for most applications.

Power users looking for the best battery life can find more enduring units elsewhere. Still, the Presario's 3-hour-plus battery life is sufficient for most consumers, as is its software bundle: Microsoft Works and Money 2000.

The Compaq's overall performance matches up to the rest of the group. And while its 3D performance was also in line, the unit's ATI Rage Mobility-M1 graphics chip turned in a 2D application score that was about 10 percent lower than the group average. Like most of the other manufacturers' warranties here, Compaq's one-year warranty seems a bit sparse. But spending the $199 to upgrade the Presario to a three-year warranty still keeps the unit at an average price.

DELL INSPIRON 5000 ★★★

PROS: Three-year warranty plus onsite; largest screen resolution
CONS: Expensive; comparably short battery life

The first of three nearly identical systems included in this roundup (along with the Quantex and the Windrover), the $3,476-direct Dell Inspiron 5000 differentiates itself by featuring an extremely high 1,400x1,050 native resolution on its 15-inch LCD and a three-year warranty including onsite coverage that comes standard.

Unfortunately, the high display resolution takes a toll on the battery, and the Inspiron's battery life is below the group average. The CPU's SpeedStep technology accounted for only a 9 percent difference in battery life in battery-optimized mode (3 hours and 14 minutes) vs. maximum-performance mode (2 hours and 57 minutes). These were the shortest times of the group. The large screen resolution didn't hinder the Inspiron's performance, though. The rest of the unit's benchmark scores were comparable to those of the other units in the group.

Like the Quantex and Windrover units, the Inspiron has a wonderfully bright 15-inch LCD panel, which has a lid slightly taller and wider than the bottom portion of the notebook, leaving a slightly protruding lip—less than a quarter-inch—all the way around. This design is meant to deliver the benefits of the large screen without the extra weight of a larger bottom panel.

DVD playback was smooth, thanks to the combination of the ATI Rage Mobility-P graphics subsystem, Ravisent CineMaster 98 decoding software, and the resolution of the display. Having a 1,400x1,050 resolution translates into extremely wide views of spreadsheets and Web pages, but it also means standard Windows icons and 12-point text in Word are too small for most eyes. Adjusting to a lower resolution makes the picture out of focus, so the only real way around it is to use magnifying options and large Windows icons.

The Inspiron comes with the Microsoft Office Small Business productivity suite, which offers more applications than the Microsoft Works suite offered by the competition. Dell's bread-and-butter feature, however, is its warranty. The Inspiron's three-year, next-business-day, onsite coverage may be reason enough for many users to consider this solid desktop-replacement system. However, price-conscious consumers can get virtually the same box, with less extensive warranties, for considerably less cash from Quantex and Windrover.

GATEWAY SOLO 9300CX ★★★

PROS: Outstanding feature selection; IEEE 1394 port
CONS: Expensive; one-year warranty

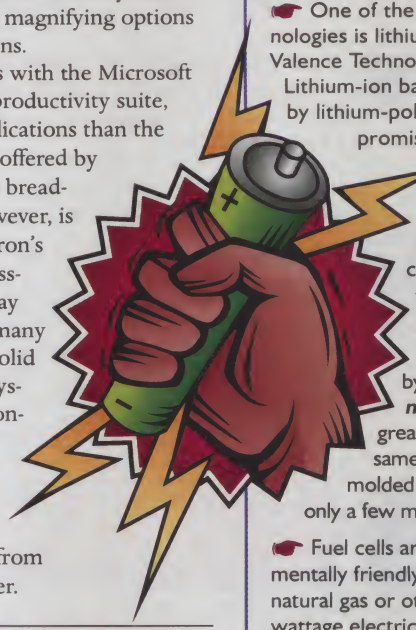
The biggest, baddest, heaviest model in our roundup—this year's Deathstar of desktop-replacement systems—is the $3,799-direct Gateway Solo 9300CX. You pay a lot, but the reason is obvious as soon as you open the case and see the massive 15.7-inch screen. The native resolution is 1,280x1,024, just right for a screen this size. And the playback from the 6x TEAC DVD-ROM drive looks great at full screen, with smooth motion and rich colors.

Benchmark performance was unaffected by the large display: The Solo easily kept up with the other units here. But the system routinely crashed on bootup after we ran our test suite. Rebooting the system almost always corrected the problem.

The Solo's battery scores came as a pleasant surprise. We expected a notebook with such a large screen to wither under our test conditions, but the Solo's huge 6,400-mAh lithium-ion battery fared rather well, lasting an average of 3 hours and 31 minutes in maximum-performance mode. SpeedStep technology didn't make much

CHARGED UP for Change

Cost, weight, and chemistry limitations have hampered advancements in battery technology, but a number of companies are investing millions of dollars in research. Here's a sampling of what they're up to:



☛ One of the most popular new technologies is lithium-polymer, backed by Valence Technology ***(www.valence.com)***. Lithium-ion batteries could be replaced by lithium-polymer batteries, which promise to run a notebook for 8 to 12 hours, can be molded to any shape, and are safer. The downside is that they're costlier and more difficult to manufacture.

☛ Lithium-sulphur technology, such as that backed by MoltechCorp. ***(www.moltech.com)***, also boasts greater life for a battery of the same weight. Batteries can be molded into any shape—even made only a few millimeters thick.

☛ Fuel cells are a new kind of environmentally friendly power source that uses natural gas or other fuels to create large-wattage electrical currents capable of powering vehicles. Manhattan Scientifics ***(www.manhattsci.com)*** is one company that hopes to put this new technology in mobile devices such as notebooks and cell phones by late next year.

☛ Even if new battery technologies take a while to develop, teaching a computer how to charge a battery properly can go a long way toward extending its life span. Enrev Corp. ***(www.enrev.com)*** has developed a battery operating system that speeds charging and avoids overcharging, which can damage a battery.

☛ Compaq ***(www.compaq.com)*** is trying to harness the kinetic energy in your fingers to power your laptop with a new notebook keyboard it patented last year. Small capacitors under each key create electrical charges as you type and send them to the battery.

Although no one can say for sure how well any of these upcoming technologies will deliver on their promises, it's clear that the battery industry is reaching out in multiple directions to extend battery life. Whichever approach proves to be the most successful, the big winners will ultimately be notebook users. ▼

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM WEBB

difference, however; when we ran the tests at 500MHz, we got only 11 extra minutes out of the battery. And the hefty battery is no help when you're carrying the notebook across a concourse: The Solo came in at 9.4 pounds and 1.6x13.1x11.3 inches (HWD), the largest and heaviest in the group.

The Solo also has the widest port selection of the group, including an IEEE 1394 (FireWire) port. Digital-camcorder owners, in particular, will appreciate the tag-team capabilities of the FireWire port and the enormous display. Other notable additions include an 18GB hard drive, an LS-120 drive, and four customizable Internet/application buttons. Dedicated mute and volume-control buttons at the top of the keyboard and dedicated audio-CD controls on the unit's front panel make audio adjustments easy. The front-mounted speakers provide decent sound quality, though it was a bit tinnier than that of the other systems we tested.

The Solo ships with Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business and is backed by a short one-year warranty. Nevertheless, we loved the Solo's excellent help function that includes how-to guides, troubleshooting tips, support contacts, mobile-computing tips, and links to Gateway's online support areas, all in a single utility accessed by the touch of one dedicated button.

QUANTEX W-1511 ★★★★

PROS: Affordably priced; good-quality DVD playback
CONS: One-year warranty

Best Buy July 2000

With a direct price of $2,749, the Quantex W-1511 is, with its sister system, the Windrover Navigator 150PT, one of most affordable notebooks of the group. Its performance was comparable to the rest, and basically right in line with the other two Compal-manufactured systems, the Windrover and the Dell. Its feature set is also very similar.

Though the W-1511's battery life was good, it was virtually unaffected by SpeedStep. In maximum-performance mode, the system lasted 3 hours and 25 minutes, and went 10 minutes more at 500MHz.

Unlike the Inspiron, the Quantex's 15-inch screen has a native XGA resolution

SPEEDSTEP NOTEBOOKS

at 32-bit color. DVD playback—provided by the 6x Toshiba drive, ATI Rage Mobility-P graphics subsystem, and CineMaster 99 software—looked great, with smooth motion, solid blacks, and realistic flesh tones.

Like the Dell and Windrover units, the Quantex has the overhanging lid, although it doesn't have the Dell's high-resolution screen or the Windrover's LS-120 drive. It does, however, ship with almost everything else the other two offer, including Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business.

The Quantex's only real shortcoming, like that of most of the systems in this roundup, is its one-year warranty.

WINDROVER NAVIGATOR 150PT ★★★

PROS: Affordably priced; LS-120 SuperDisk drive; superior benchmark performance
CONS: Subpar DVD playback; one-year warranty

By far the most affordable system here, the $2,599-direct Windrover Navigator 150PT is basically a combination of the Dell and Quantex units. It comes dressed in the same staid black box, has the same overlapping lid, and offers the same ports as the other two units, including an S-Video connector.

Interestingly, the Windrover matched or outpaced its two sister systems and the rest of the competition on all our tests with the exception of the Business Disk WinMark 99 suite, on which it was just about average. On our BatteryMark 3.0 test, the system lasted 3 hours and 22 minutes at 650MHz and 3 hours and 38 minutes at 500MHz, sufficient for most users.

However, its DVD playback was disappointing, especially compared to that of the Dell and Quantex systems, both of which looked great. We observed some pixelation in dark areas of the screen, although motion was smooth and the colors were generally accurate. The difference may be attributable to Windrover's choice of Mediamatics' DVDExpress software. (Both the Dell and Quantex units used Ravisent's CineMaster software.) We saw similar imperfections in DVD playback with the Acer TravelMate, which also used DVDExpress.

Another difference from the Dell and Quantex is the Windrover's LS-120 SuperDisk drive, a nice extra that features 120MB capacity and backward-compatibility with 1.44MB 3.5-inch floppy disks. Like the majority of the systems here, the Windrover is backed by a one-year warranty, although another $199 will get you three full years of coverage. And who's going to quibble when the price is so great?

Our evaluation model was missing the standard Windows-based Intel SpeedStep utility. Although it will be included in shipping models, the missing application made us realize what a handy program it really is.

THE FINAL WORD

Three of the six units here are physically identical but have distinguishing features that address specific markets. Dell units have always been favorites with consumers and small-business users, and the Inspiron 5000, with its three-year warranty, robust productivity software, and formidable hardware, continues in that tradition.

However, when competitors with nearly identical configurations come in several hundred dollars lower—here, the Quantex W-1511 and Windrover Navigator 150PT—some users may be willing to sacrifice superior support for extra money in the bank.

Meanwhile, corporate users looking for the longest battery life on the market—and who don't mind paying more—will want to check out the Acer TravelMate 736TL. For a more consumer- and Internet-friendly offering, the Compaq Presario 1800-XL 650 is a proven choice. Finally, if you're looking for everything the notebook platform has to offer, Gateway's Solo 9300CX is your best bet. ▼

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< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★ Best Buy	★★★
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DIRECT PRICE	$3,699 (mfr. est.)	$3,048	$3,476	$3,799	$2,749	$2,599

SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO NOTEBOOKS

BEYOND SPEEDSTEP

Shopping for the Right Portable Package

BY DAVID ENGLISH

Thinking about buying a new notebook, and confused by all the choices? Welcome to the club. SpeedStep is just one of a long list of features that you'll need to consider when shopping for a portable. As notebooks have become more varied, they've also become tougher to choose from. To get certain amenities, you may have to sacrifice others.

If you buy a 3-pound notebook, you'll have to give up a full-size keyboard, a built-in DVD drive, and a desktop-like screen. But if you buy a full-featured notebook that weighs 7 pounds, you may end up leaving it behind because it's too heavy. It's a sad truth, but there's no single perfect notebook—only those with features that either suit or don't suit your needs. The trick is to prioritize your needs and find the notebook that best meets them.

The two most significant criteria are price and form factor. If you can afford only a $1,500 notebook, you've narrowed the field considerably. And if you need a notebook that's either extremely lightweight or a true desktop equivalent, then you've eliminated the majority of available models. Most of us select notebooks that lie somewhere between these extremes. We don't want to spend so little that we sacrifice quality, and we don't want our notebooks to be so lightweight that we have to give up too much functionality. We want a balance of price, weight, and features that's skewed toward our particular needs.

Because choosing a notebook involves trade-offs, you should decide up front how much weight will be acceptable. A 3-pound notebook will likely require you to carry a bulky external CD-ROM (or DVD-ROM) drive. With a 4.5-pound notebook, the CD-ROM (or DVD-ROM) drive will probably be integrated, making it easier to listen to audio CDs or watch DVD movies while traveling. Need an extra battery to finish the movie? That 6-pound model might have an extra bay that can house a second battery, and it might also have a 14-inch screen for a theater-like movie experience. Need an even larger screen and high-fidelity speakers for group presentations? Watch the weight creep up to 7 or even 8 pounds as you pile on these extras.

Similar trade-offs apply when looking at price in relation to processors, hard drives, and graphics adapters. If you plan to use your notebook for word processing, Web browsing, and e-mail, you can easily get by with a low-end notebook featuring a 400MHz processor and a 6GB hard drive. But if you plan to play leading-edge games or edit large multimedia files on your notebook, you might want to splurge on one with a 700MHz processor, an 18GB hard drive, and an AGP graphics display with 8MB of memory. Of course, you'll pay two to three times more for the latter notebook, but it can also function as your primary computer.

A notebook's screen size directly affects its overall dimensions. Sony's slight 2.2-pound VAIO PCG-C1XS PictureBook features an 8.9-inch display, while Systemax's hefty 8.6-pound SW15-T650 packs a spacious 15.1-inch LCD.

FAST, FASTER, FASTEST

Today's notebook processors are so fast, it's hard to make a bad selection. Even the entry-level 400MHz to 450MHz Mobile Celeron, Pentium II, and K6-2 processors are impressive. They're as fast as the leading-edge PC desktop processors were at the beginning of 1999. On the Intel side, you can expect Pentium II processors to quickly disappear. With the Celeron on the low end and the Pentium III on the high end, Pentium II chips are being squeezed out of the marketplace, just as they were on the desktop side. A good rule of thumb is to consider the Celeron to be one clock speed slower than a Pentium III running at the same megahertz speed. For example, it would take a 500MHz Celeron to run your software at approximately the same speed as a 450MHz Pentium III. The Pentium III processors benefit from a special set of built-in instructions (referred to as Streaming SIMD Extensions, or SSE), which speed up 3D geometry and lighting, video compression and decompression, image processing, and speech recognition. Pentium III processors with SpeedStep technology are currently available in 600MHz, 650MHz, and 700MHz speeds. Pentium III processors without SpeedStep technology are available in 450MHz and 500MHz speeds. The SpeedStep units do have better battery life, in general, but this has more to do with the lower power draw of the CPUs than SpeedStep itself. (See the feature "Supercharged Notebooks," p. 154.) You can find Celeron processors that range in speed from 366MHz to 550MHz, and possibly even a 600MHz chip by the time you read this. The 500MHz and faster Celerons use a 100MHz system bus, as opposed to the 66MHz system bus used with earlier Celerons.

AMD is phasing out its 400MHz to 475MHz K6-2-P mobile processors and 400MHz to 450MHz K6-III-P mobile processors. In their place, manufacturers such as Compaq and Hewlett-Packard are expected to adopt the new K6-2+ and K6-III+ processors with PowerNow technology. AMD's PowerNow technology is similar to Intel's SpeedStep technology in that it extends battery life by reducing the clock speed and processor voltage. In addition to the preset High Performance and Battery Saver modes, PowerNow features an Intermediate mode that, when supported by the manufacturer, allows the notebook to essentially set its own speed when using the battery. The K6-2+ targets the Celeron market, and the K6-III+ targets the Pentium III market. All the current mobile K6 chips feature a 100MHz system bus. Expect AMD to continue to nip at Intel's heels by attempting to match the K6-2+ and K6-III+ speeds to those of the Celeron and Pentium III.

How important is a fast processor in a notebook? It depends on the application. If you're trying to watch a DVD movie, and the notebook is using a software-based MPEG-2 decoder (as opposed to a decoder card), a 366MHz or 400MHz processor will be barely adequate. However, for typical tasks, such as word processing and Web browsing, any of these processors will be more than sufficient. While processor speed isn't the be-all and end-all of notebook performance, it's difficult to separate the CPU from the other components. If you want a notebook with a 14- or 15-inch screen, an 18GB hard drive, and fast AGP graphics, you might only be able to find configurations that include a fast processor.

SIZE MATTERS

Screen size is tightly intertwined with a portable's form factor. As a general rule, you want the largest screen possible for the size notebook that fits your needs. If you want a lightweight notebook, you'll have to accept a smaller screen. Sony's 2.2-pound VAIO PCG-C1XS has an 8.9-inch screen, and IBM's 2.9-pound ThinkPad 240 has a 10.4-inch screen. At the other extreme, Gateway's 8.61-pound Solo 9300CX has a 15.7-inch screen, which has the same viewable area as many 17-inch desktop monitors. The Solo 9300CX screen also has an SXGA resolution (1,280x1,024), compared to the SVGA resolution (800x600) for most subnotebooks. The VAIO PCG-C1XS is an exception for the subnotebook class, in that it uses a modified XGA resolution (1,024x480). Most notebooks that fall between the extreme form factors have an XGA resolution (1,024x768), with a 13-inch or 14-inch screen being fairly typical. You'll find active-matrix screens (also referred to as TFT screens) in almost every notebook, though the screens in some budget-priced notebooks and subnotebooks use slower and less expensive passive-matrix technology.

Keyboard size is also linked to the overall size of the notebook. Most subnotebook keyboards are 75 to 95 percent the size of a standard notebook keyboard, so they can be more difficult to type on, especially if you have large hands. The smaller keyboards often have less key travel, so the keys don't press down nearly as far as they do on a

< PORTABLE PROFILES >

Type of User	Optimal Notebook	Key Features	Often-Overlooked Features
Frequent flyer	Thin and light	Rugged construction; provision for second battery	Security lock; reliability of suspend mode
PowerPoint presenter	Desktop replacement	Large screen	Dual-screen options; IEEE 1394 and S-Video ports
Employee without a desktop	Desktop replacement	Expansion bays and modules	Option to increase hard drive size
Movie buff	Mid-size notebook	Built-in DVD drive; long battery life	Hardware MPEG-2 decoder; Dolby Digital output
Game fan	Desktop replacement	Fast AGP graphics	Wavetable MIDI; USB port for joystick
Student	Budget	Rugged construction	Quality of the built-in speakers

desktop keyboard. A key-travel distance of 3.5mm is considered standard, so you may want to avoid notebooks that significantly reduce that distance. You'll likely be spending a great deal of time at the keyboard, so insist on trying it before you buy, or be sure the seller offers an acceptable return policy. Most notebooks have either a pointing stick or touch pad. Be sure that you're comfortable with whichever option is offered with the notebook you're buying. Many seasoned road warriors have a strong preference for one or the other; only you can determine which works best for you. A few models, such as Dell's CPx J650GT, offer both types of pointing devices in the same notebook.

Whether you choose a lightweight, a heavyweight, or something in between will also help determine the expansion capabilities of your notebook. Recent developments in drive design have made it possible to squeeze a floppy drive and a CD-ROM drive into the space formerly required for a single drive. It's much less common now to have to deal with external drives or swapping out drives, except with lightweight models. In a few cases, such as IBM's ThinkPad 570E and Toshiba's Portégé 7000, you can attach a module that includes an extra drive. This arrangement works well only if you rarely need the extra features, because the combined weight of the notebook and module is usually more than the weight of a notebook that has all the features built in. With the heavier desktop-replacement notebooks, you often have multiple expansion bays for the simultaneous use of two or more add-ons. These add-ons might include a second battery, a second hard drive, a CD-RW drive, or an LS-120 drive. You might use one configuration when traveling by plane and another when using the notebook in your office.

Two innovative expansion options: The Compaq Presario 1900XL's slim, removable drive wedge houses both a floppy drive and a DVD drive, and the micronpc.com TransPort LT's Mini PCI slot can host a combo modem/network card.

Most notebooks include either a built-in modem or a PC Card modem. Built-in modems tend to draw less power because it's easier to shut down the modem completely when it's not being used. PC Card modems usually take up one of your two PC Card slots, which could limit your ability to add PC Card peripherals. On the other hand, some built-in modems use proprietary DSP chips and are not as reliable or as fast as a PC Card modem.

A more elegant solution for modem and network interface cards is the new Mini PCI slot. Functionally equivalent to a standard PCI expansion card, Mini PCI cards are roughly two-thirds the size of a credit card. Even though they are extremely small, a single card can be used for both modem and network connections. Compaq, Dell, Gateway, Hitachi, IBM, micronpc.com, NEC, and Toshiba are supporting the Mini PCI standard.

A WORD TO THE WISE

Finally, carefully scrutinize the manufacturer's warranty and support policies. If you depend on your notebook while traveling, ask if the manufacturer can guarantee a repair within one or two business days. Will the company send a replacement overnight if needed? Are you covered by the same policies when traveling outside the country? You might have to pay extra for full protection, but it could be worth it for the peace of mind. Most notebooks have either a one-year or three-year warranty. Consider a model with a three-year warranty—it often indicates that the notebook is designed for mobile professionals.

Because notebooks are available in such a wide variety of shapes and sizes, choosing one can be a more subjective experience than choosing a desktop. Just as your choice of a car can indicate whether you're thrifty or extravagant, outgoing or reclusive, your choice of notebook can indicate whether you prefer performance to practicality, or raw speed to mobility. With desktops, it's easy to pack in additional features as long as you're willing to accept a higher price. With notebooks, of the three most desired qualities—low price, low weight, and high speed—you can have only two with any particular model. ▼

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  Define custom settings for portables.
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SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 168

SOME DAY, THERE WILL BE SUPPORT GROUPS FOR THOSE HOPELESSLY HOOKED ON SPEED, SEX AND POWER.

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Intel Pentium III processor 667MHz	Intel Pentium III processor 800MHz	Intel Pentium III processor 866MHz
64MB 133MHz SDRAM	128MB 133MHz SDRAM	128MB 133MHz SDRAM
10GB◊ ATA-66 (7200 rpm) hard drive	10GB◊ ATA-66 (7200 rpm) hard drive	30GB◊ ATA-66 (7200 rpm) hard drive
17" Micron 700Dx (15.9" display) monitor	17" Micron 700Dx (15.9" display) monitor	19" Micron 900Lx (18" display) monitor
40X var.° speed CD-ROM drive	40X var.° speed CD-ROM drive	12X DVD-ROM drive
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2-MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL CAMERAS

Picture

These six affordable 2-megapixel cameras deliver amazing image quality and a wide range of features.

If you've been considering making the switch from traditional film-based photography to digital photography, your timing couldn't be better. Not only has the technology matured to the point where digital cameras produce images that many people find indistinguishable from standard photographs, but prices have come down substantially.

Consumers or hobbyists looking for a digital camera that's a step above entry-level, but not quite professional grade, will probably want to consider a 2-megapixel camera. These cameras typically cost between $500 and $800. For the most part, they capture images at a maximum resolution of 1,600x1,200 pixels, which is suitable for good 4x6, decent 5x7, and adequate 8x10 prints. They also can handle low-resolution pictures for the Web, presentations, or other onscreen applications with no problem. Professional-quality digital cameras, on the other hand, start at about $5,000, usually use interchangeable lenses, and include optical components of much better quality.

GETTING IT IN FOCUS

Many cameras come with a built-in USB interface for easy image transfer from the camera to your PC. Usually, a USB connection lets you mount the camera as a drive so that you can copy files to your hard drive directly within Windows Explorer, rather than forcing you to use a camera's utility software. A USB connection is relatively fast; our testing showed it to be between 130Kbps and 394Kbps. Some cameras only come with a serial-port connection, however, which plodded along at 10Kbps. In such

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BY LORI GRUNIN

cases, we highly recommend purchasing an external CompactFlash or SmartMedia card reader to ease file transfer.

Even though CompactFlash and SmartMedia cards are equally easy to use, we give the edge to CompactFlash. It currently sells in capacities up to 190MB, compared to SmartMedia's maximum of 64MB. CompactFlash also provided better read/write speeds during our testing. These capabilities are especially important in cameras like the Nikon Coolpix 800, which has the ability to save uncompressed images. (An uncompressed image is about 5.6MB.)

Saving images in uncompressed mode isn't ideal for everyone, but if you want to perform image editing beyond minor sharpening and tone adjustments, uncompressed images will stand up far better than their compressed counterparts. Similarly, printing 1,600x1,200 images at 8x10 inches, which works out to a rather low 190 dpi or so, will fare better if you start with raw data rather than compressed files. If you plan to use a third-party service to print your photos (see the sidebar "Pretty as a Picture"), you might want to choose a camera that supports Digital Print Order Format (DPOF), so you can pass along information about picture selection and image data directly to the photo finisher.

In terms of battery power, cameras that use AA batteries are the most convenient in the long run. If the camera doesn't come with rechargeable batteries, buying aftermarket rechargeables can be wise—they last longer, they're friendlier to the environment, and the AA size lets you substitute readily available alkaline versions in a pinch.

< FACT FILE >

Category Tested	**2-Megapixel Digital Cameras**
Price Range	$501 to $734
Minimum Configuration	2.11 megapixels, 1,600x1,200 resolution, 8MB of storage
Companies Included	Eastman Kodak Co., Hewlett-Packard Co., Nikon, Olympus America, Ricoh PC Peripherals Business Unit, Toshiba America Information Systems

2-MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL CAMERAS

HP PHOTOSMART C500XI ★★

PROS: Easy-to-use basic functions
CONS: Poor battery life; doesn't mount as a drive

Weighing 13.1 ounces, the HP PhotoSmart C500xi is the heaviest camera in this roundup. The C500xi offers decent image quality and an eclectic set of features for its average price of $680.

If you are looking for unique features, the C500xi offers two interesting ones. The C500xi supports the HP JetSend IR protocol, which lets you wirelessly beam images to another JetSend-capable camera or print to a JetSend-capable printer. The C500xi's Eye Start option, meanwhile, wakes the camera from sleep mode by sensing your eye at the viewfinder—a feature that handily beats all other wake-up designs.

Unfortunately, even the best-quality mode suffered from compression-induced softness in our testing. Overall, the default settings tend a bit toward overexposure in bright sunlight and close-up flash, but this sensitivity pays off in situations with relatively subdued lighting.

The C500xi is designed with the average consumer in mind. It's easy to figure out how to take your first pictures, and the basic tools—flash/red-eye reduction, zoom, and image-quality settings—have clearly marked buttons. Although the camera has some higher-level functions, such as exposure compensation and spot metering, they aren't positioned well for real-world use—you have to access them through the energy-consuming LCD-based menu.

Under normal use, that's not much of a problem, but the real Achilles' heel of the C500xi is its poor power design. Unlike most of the digital cameras on the market that use four AA batteries, the C500xi makes do with three. Neither the bundled

HP PhotoSmart C500xi, Kodak DC280 Zoom Digital Camera

< FEATURE COMPARISON >

To view the complete version of this table online, go to *cgi.zdnet.com/slink?30890*	HP PhotoSmart C500xi	Kodak DC280 Zoom Digital Camera	Nikon Coolpix 800 (Best Buy)	Olympus C-2020 Zoom	Ricoh RDC-5300
AVERAGE PRICE	**$680**	**$612**	**$501**	**$734**	**$632**
FEATURES					
CCD Resolution (Megapixels)	2.11	2.3	2.11	2.11	2.3
Image Resolutions	1,600x1,200, 1,152x864, 640x480	1,760x1,168, 896x592	1,600x1,200, 640x480	1,600x1,200, 1,024x768, 640x480	1,792x1,200, 896x600
Levels of Compression	Three	Three	Three and uncompressed	Three and uncompressed	Three
Memory	16MB CompactFlash	16MB CompactFlash	8MB CompactFlash	8MB SmartMedia	8MB SmartMedia, 8MB internal storage
Approximate Image Capacity at Best-Quality/Worst-Quality Settings	22/160	32/245	8/32	5/82	29/99
File Formats	JPEG	JPEG	JPEG, TIFF	JPEG, TIFF	JPEG, DPOF
Image-Capture Modes	Still, burst, time-lapse	Still	Still, burst, video	Still, burst, video	Still, time-lapse
Batteries	Three AA rechargeable NiMH (included)	Four AA alkaline	Four AA alkaline	Four AA rechargeable NiMH (included)	Four AA alkaline
AC Adapter	Optional ($56)	Optional ($35)	Optional ($48)	Optional ($49)	Included
Interfaces	USB, serial, HP JetSend, composite video	USB, serial, composite video	Serial, composite video	Serial, composite video	USB, serial, composite video
Cables Included	PC serial, USB, composite video	PC serial, Mac serial, USB, composite video	PC serial, Mac serial, composite video	PC serial, Mac serial, composite video	PC serial, Mac serial, USB, composite video
Dimensions (HWD, Inches)	3.1x5.2x2.1	3x5.2x2	2.7x4.7x2.4	2.9x4.23x2.6	2.7x5.2x2.1
Weight (Ounces)	13.1	12.1	9.5	10.75	12
PHOTOGRAPHIC SPECIFICATIONS					
35mm-Equivalent Lens Focal Length	38mm to 115mm	30mm to 60mm	38mm to 76mm	35mm to 105mm	38mm to 114mm
Digital Zoom	2x	3x	2.5x	2.5x	2.5x
Aperture Range (F-Stop)	f2.8 to f9	f3 to f9.6	f3.5 to f11	f2 to f11	f3.2 to f3.8
Shutter Speed Range (Seconds)	1/1,000 to 2	1/755 to 1/2	1/750 to 8	1/800 to 1/2	1/500 to 1
ISO Equivalents	80	70	100, 200, 400	100, 200, 400	100
Exposure Compensation	+/-1.5 stops in 0.3 increments	+/-2 stops in 0.5 increments	+/-2 stops in 0.3 increments, autobracket	+/-2 stops in 0.3 increments, autobracket	+/-2 stops in 0.5 increments, autobracket
Closest Focus Distance in Macro/Normal Modes (Inches)	24/3.2	20/9.8	12/2.8	32/8	15.7/1.6
BUNDLED SOFTWARE	Adobe PhotoDeluxe Business Edition, Ulead PhotoImpact, Ulead Cool 360	Adobe PageMill, Adobe PhotoDeluxe, ArcSoft PhotoPrinter	PictureWorks Hotshot, Interactive Pictures Ipix	Adobe PhotoDeluxe, Apple QuickTime, QuickStitch	ArcSoft PhotoStudio, PhotoBase, PhotoMontage, PhotoFantasy, PhotoPrinter
SERVICE AND SUPPORT					
Standard Warranty (Parts and Labor)	One year	One year	One year	One year	One year
Toll-Free Telephone Support	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Live Tech-Support Hours (ET)	7 a.m. to 10 p.m. M-F, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sa	9 a.m. to 8 p.m. M-F	8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. M-F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F	7 a.m. to 10 p.m. M-F, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sa, Su
Online Tech Support	E-mail, Web	E-mail, Web	Web	E-mail, Web	E-mail, Web

NiMH batteries nor store-bought alkalines could make it through a single shot during our close-up testing with flash, which requires focusing through the LCD. On the other hand, during normal outdoor shooting with no flash, the batteries lasted reasonably long.

Little about the HP PhotoSmart C500xi makes it stand out in the increasingly crowded 2-megapixel market. However, most users will find it easy to use and adequate for taking indoor and outdoor snapshots.

KODAK DC280 ZOOM DIGITAL CAMERA ★★★

PROS: Consistent image quality; good exposure range
CONS: Limited optical zoom range; options are too menu-driven

With an average price of $612, the Kodak DC280 Zoom Digital Camera is one of the least expensive 2-megapixel cameras we've seen. The camera took neither the best nor the worst pictures in this group, capturing consistent and satisfactory images under a broad range of lighting conditions.

With the macro shots we took, the flash and nonflash images produced remarkably similar exposures. Both had pleasing but slightly oversaturated colors, and the flash shots came out relatively natural-looking. Skin tones appeared accurate, and though we noticed a slight cyan color cast, which gave the sky a somewhat surreal tone, it didn't otherwise throw the color balance perceptibly off. The flash produced no significant hot spots in indoor pictures, and outdoor shots came out evenly and reliably exposed. The best-quality mode suffered from some compression artifacts, which softened the image, but not as severely as what we saw with the HP PhotoSmart C500xi.

Overall, the Kodak DC280 has a solid, comfortable feel, but its 35mm-equivalent zoom range of 30mm to 60mm isn't broad enough to suit a wide range of situations. The camera is simple to use, if a bit too menu-driven. The flash, macro/distance, and self-timer buttons sit on top, but you have to go through the LCD menu to switch resolution and quality modes, as well as set the exposure compensation.

Consistent image quality and an easy-to-comprehend design make the DC280 a good choice for the casual snapshot taker. And its relatively inexpensive price should appeal to the budget-minded.

NIKON COOLPIX 800 ★★★★

PROS: Excellent image quality; uncompressed output option; lightweight
CONS: Serial connection only; limited optical zoom range; can't use self-timer in macro mode

With an average price of $501, the Nikon Coolpix 800 not only qualifies as the least expensive camera in this roundup, but as one of the least expensive 2-megapixel cameras available today. Its superior image quality and sound design make it a great buy for both vacation snapshooters and artists on a budget. And weighing only 9.5 ounces, the Coolpix 800 feels like a feather in your hands.

The camera's images are a bit on the cool side, though not enough to significantly mar color balance or skin tones. During testing, the Coolpix 800 delivered accurate exposures, with and without flash. We saw little noise in our test images, and the camera didn't oversaturate colors under low-light conditions. The flash is rather narrowly focused, however, throwing all but the subject into shadow more sharply than the other cameras here. Even JPEG-compressed images displayed crisp details, and we saw artifacts only in the images taken at the highest compression level.

All of the Coolpix 800's important features sit within easy reach. The four buttons atop the camera control compression level, flash, exposure compensation, and focus mode. You only need the menus to customize more esoteric settings such as white balance or metering mode. Although the camera's 38mm-to-76mm zoom range doesn't go quite as long as we'd like, it can focus at closer distances than the other cameras in normal mode and requires only about an inch more than the Ricoh needs in macro mode.

With its combination of excellent image quality, good design, and comparably low price, the Coolpix 800 comes close to being the perfect digital camera for consumers. Our biggest complaint, however, is its serial-only PC connection. An external CompactFlash card reader is an essential accessory; thankfully, the Coolpix 800's price leaves room for one.

Best Buy July 2000

Not only does it offer excellent image quality and a lightweight, ergonomic design, but the $501 **Nikon Coolpix 800** also has the lowest price here. A great value for part-time shutterbugs as well as the serious amateur photographer, the camera's only significant detraction is its slow serial-port connection.

Toshiba PDR-M5
$694
2.14
1,600x1,200, 800x600, 320x240
Three
8MB SmartMedia, 9MB internal storage
8/128
JPEG, DPOF
Still, burst, video
Proprietary lithium-ion (included)
Included
USB, serial, composite video
PC serial, Mac serial, USB, composite video
3.1x5.1x2.76
11.3
40mm to 120mm
2x
f3.5 to f11
1/1,000 to 1/2
100, 200, 400
+/-5 stops in 0.3 increments
35/10
Sierra Imaging Image Expert, Apple QuickTime
One year
Yes
8 a.m. to 8 p.m. M-F
E-mail, Web

Photo Samples

These images show how each camera handles uneven lighting conditions without using fill flash. To compare, look at the color balance, edge detail, and sharpness of the background elements. You can actually see drops of water on the rose petals in the better images. Each shot was taken at the closest macro focus distance the camera offers. To view the images at their full size, go to *cgi.zdnet.com/slink?31837*.

HP PhotoSmart C500xi

Kodak DC280 Zoom Digital Camera

Nikon Coolpix 800

Olympus C-2020 Zoom

Ricoh RDC-5300

Toshiba PDR-M5

2-MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL CAMERAS

OLYMPUS C-2020 ZOOM ★★★

PROS: Excellent image quality; uncompressed output option; large selection of shooting modes
CONS: Expensive; serial connection only; missing some features

The Olympus C-2020 Zoom includes a great selection of features sure to appeal to "power tweakers." Despite these extras, however, the camera is missing a few essentials those same users will miss, and its $734 average price is the highest here.

If you like to use advanced settings, you'll appreciate the C-2020's shutter-priority, aperture-priority, and manual exposure-adjustment modes. Also, the camera's support for uncompressed files, auto-bracketing, manual focus, and "blackboard" and "whiteboard" (1-bit) modes are equally useful. But the C-2020 lacks power-user features such as matrix-metering, a USB connection to your PC, and shutter speeds longer than half a second. Even the casual user might be occasionally stymied, as the C-2020's basic features aren't always easy to access. For example, the resolution and compression settings are buried two levels deep and located in two different places within the menus.

In general, image quality is sharp, with few artifacts in all but the most highly compressed images. The minimal noise and the extremely saturated colors are sure to please most users. But using the flash delivered unpredictable results when used in tricky lighting situations. Close-ups looked harsh, and more distant indoor shots were underexposed. As a result, the C-2020 is better suited for outdoor than indoor photography.

The C-2020's overall solid image quality and advanced features give it the potential to be an attractive choice for power users. Like the Nikon Coolpix 800, however, the C-2020 only offers a serial connection, which means sluggish downloads. Factor in the camera's price and the notable omissions from its feature set, and it becomes clear there are better deals to be found.

Nikon Coolpix 800, Olympus C-2020 Zoom

Sure Shots

3 ESSENTIAL ZDNET DOWNLOADS

- **Adobe ActiveShare** Create and share digital photo albums.
- **PhotoMail** Send friends and family your photos via e-mail.
- **PhotoStreamer** Get prints made of your digital photos.

DOWNLOAD THEM NOW FROM *www.zdnet.com/downloads*

RICOH RDC-5300 ★★★

PROS: Overall excellent image quality; internal memory buffer; great macro focus distance; excellent optical zoom range
CONS: Flash is too harsh for close-ups; clunky design

No digital camera provides the perfect balance of image quality and features, but the Ricoh RDC-5300 presents an even greater conundrum. This $632 camera took some of the best-looking images of the group, but it also produced some of the worst. At the same time, some excellent design touches are offset by other less-than-ideal features.

When the RDC-5300 is good, it's very good. At 1,792x1,200 pixels, it has the highest resolution in the roundup, with little compression degradation. It holds color balance exceptionally well under many natural lighting conditions, resulting in natural skin tones and surprisingly accurate colors. Portrait shots taken under mixed light sources during testing turned out evenly exposed. But when we used the flash for close-up shots, it was too harsh, resulting in extremely washed-out images.

The RDC-5300 has similar dimensions to the HP PhotoSmart C500xi and shares the same clunky feel. The RDC-5300's 8MB

Pretty as a Picture

Now that you've got all those stunning images sitting on a CompactFlash or SmartMedia card, how do you show them off as prints to the rest of the world? Happily, in more ways than ever.

Do-it-yourself types can opt to print them at home. If you do, we recommend using one of the latest generation of inkjet photo printers, such as an Epson Stylus Photo printer based on the company's 870 engine—the 870, 875DC, or 1270 ***(www.epson.com/printer)***. These printers produce some of the best photo output we've seen to date. When combined with Epson's Heavyweight Matte paper or Epson's Premium Glossy paper, the pictures themselves are likely to significantly outlast those printed on most other consumer inkjet printers. Check out the independent test organization Wilhelm Imaging Research ***(www.wilhelm-research.com)*** for ratings on how many years a printed image will last before noticeable fading occurs for various manufacturer's printers and paper types.

Small-format continuous-tone dye-sublimation photo printers, such as the Olympus P-330 Instant Home Printer ***(www.olympusamerica.com)***, are more flexible when it comes to input. The P-330 can accept video input from a TV or VCR, as well as images from a SmartMedia card or direct PC input, but the printer is limited to 4x6-inch prints.

For more traditional output, standard photographic prints from digital images are now easier than ever to obtain. Services such as EZ Prints ***(www.ezprints.com)*** and PhotoWorks.com will print your pictures using the standard silver-halide photographic development process. We tried EZ Prints and were pleased with the results, as well as the prices, from 49 cents per 4x6, up to $4.95 for an 11x14. Bear in mind that lab-produced photographic prints will generally have lower contrast and more subdued colors than those you can get out of your own home inkjet printer. But they still have the edge over inkjets when it comes to image longevity. ▼

internal memory buffer permits fast picture-taking as well as emergency storage space if you manage to fill up the 8MB SmartMedia card. It also has an excellent zoom range and the closest macro focus distance of the group. Although the flash and self-timer buttons are well-positioned on top of the camera, they are difficult to manipulate quickly, as are all of the camera's buttons. In addition, when zoomed out to its maximum, the lens intrudes into the frame of the optical viewfinder, though it doesn't impinge on the actual picture.

Ricoh RDC-5300, Toshiba PDR-M5

The RDC-5300's overall image quality makes it an appealing choice if you're seeking the best possible image you can get. The idiosyncratic design choices and poor close-up flash quality detract from its allure, but at the very least, the RDC-5300 is well-suited for simple snapshot photography.

TOSHIBA PDR-M5 ★★
PROS: Broad zoom range
CONS: Images contain color noise and appear somewhat soft; awkward controls; proprietary battery

With an average price of $694, the Toshiba PDR-M5 is one of the more expensive cameras in this roundup. Though not a heavy camera, the PDR-M5 is the bulkiest of the bunch. And while it boasts a number of practical design elements, its image quality can disappoint.

Toshiba smartly places the backlit LCD next to the optical viewfinder, rather than placing it on the top of the unit. Similarly, the PDR-M5 has the easiest-to-adjust diopter, the best zoom range, and the fastest download speed of all the cameras in this group. On the other hand, most of its other controls are awkward to use. Small flash, self-timer, and quality-mode buttons sit below the LCD readout; the power/mode dial is difficult to turn; and the flash has to be popped up into position manually.

Although the proprietary lithium-ion battery lasts for a reasonable amount of time, you can't pop in an emergency set of AAs when it dies, as you can with the other cameras. In addition, the PDR-M5 has a 9MB internal memory buffer, but it is used only for storing image data during capture and downloading to a PC. You can't use it to store images, so you're limited to the bundled 8MB SmartMedia card. The PDR-M5 also lacks a lens cap.

The PDR-M5 is capable of producing excellent exposures with pleasing colors. In our tests, however, we noticed that all of our images suffered from color noise and looked a bit soft when compared to the images produced by the other cameras.

Despite the PDR-M5's notable features, its relatively high price and disappointing image quality qualify it as only a competent camera.

How We Tested

To evaluate these cameras, we shot indoor photos under a wide range of lighting conditions, including a 500-watt tungsten studio light with a dichroic filter to simulate the color temperature of daylight and mixed incandescent sources. We also took the cameras on a tour of New York City on a sunny spring day to appraise usability as well as outdoor exposure quality.

We downloaded images using each camera's fastest possible connection to a 300MHz Gateway Pentium II system. To evaluate image quality, we viewed the images within Adobe Photoshop on a Sony Multiscan 17se II monitor attached to a Guillemot Maxi Gamer Xentor 32 graphics card. Also, we printed the best of each camera's images on an Epson Stylus Photo 1270 printer on Epson Premium Glossy Photo Paper. ▼

SAY CHEESE

Nearly any 2-megapixel camera you buy today will produce images that are sure to please all but the most discriminating users. The differences lie in the details, marking the distinction between a satisfactory and a super photographic experience.

These cameras can easily provide you with the same experience you'd get with a traditional point-and-shoot camera—albeit for about two to three times the price. But they also provide much more flexibility over how your images are captured and offer features you just can't get with traditional film-based cameras, such as immediate access to your pictures for viewing, editing, and printing. And if you think these cameras are impressive, next month we look at three brand-new 3.3-megapixel cameras. ▼

Additional reporting by Holly Aguirre

ZDNet Price It!™

	code
HP PhotoSmart C500xi	29669
Kodak DC280 Zoom Digital Camera	29670
Nikon Coolpix 800	29671
Olympus C-2020 Zoom	29672
Ricoh RDC-5300	29673
Toshiba PDR-M5	29674

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

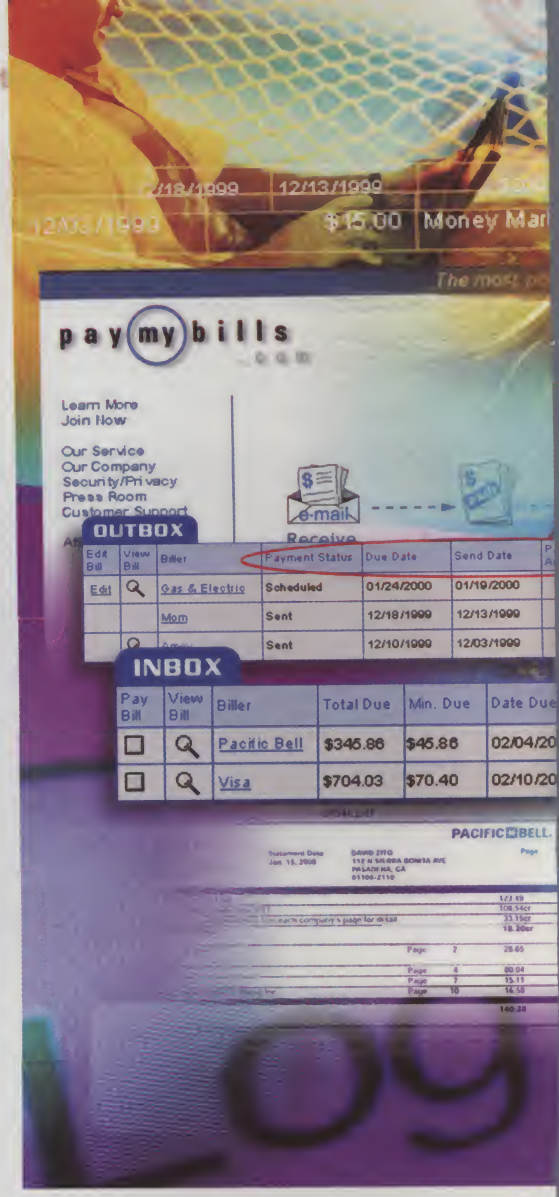
< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★
PRODUCT	HP PhotoSmart C500xi	Kodak DC280 Zoom Digital Camera	Nikon Coolpix 800 Best Buy	Olympus C-2020 Zoom	Ricoh RDC-5300	Toshiba PDR-M5
COMPANY	Hewlett-Packard Co. Palo Alto, CA 800-752-0900, 650-857-1501 www.photosmart.com	Eastman Kodak Co. Rochester, NY 888-375-6325, 716-724-4000 www.kodak.com	Nikon Melville, NY 800-526-4566, 631-547-4200 www.nikonusa.com	Olympus America Melville, NY 631-844-5000 www.olympusamerica.com	Ricoh PC Peripherals Business Unit W. Caldwell, NJ 888-742-6410 www.ricohcpg.com	Toshiba America Information Systems Irvine, CA 800-288-1354, 949-583-3000 www.toshiba.com/taisisd
AVERAGE PRICE	$680	$612	$501	$734	$632	$694

BILL-PAYING SERVICES

The E-Bill Is in the Mail

BY JOHN KOSMER



These three electronic billing services can save you time and money.

The Internet is constantly changing the way we live, from the way we gather information to the way we take care of daily chores. Now the Web may revolutionize the way we pay our bills by making it easy to both receive and pay them online. This new industry is called electronic bill presentation and payment (EBPP), and by all indications it is poised to make a big splash. Consumers waste an average of $200 a year on paper-bill-paying costs—check writing, postage, and so on. EBPP can also cut costs for billers, from 50 cents to $2 for a paper bill to 35 cents to 50 cents for an electronic one.

With the potential for substantial savings on both ends of the transaction, it's no wonder that the use of EBPP is expected to rise sharply over the next few years. Not only will more households use online billing services, but repetitive billers like utilities are expected to use these services to distribute their bills and to lower costs by about 40 percent per bill.

EBPP works like this: After signing up for the service with an EBPP vendor, you arrange for all your bills to be sent to its processing center. The company then takes your paper invoices, scans them, and converts them to electronic formats for Web viewing. The service notifies you by e-mail when a bill arrives, and after logging on to its site, you can view invoices and arrange for payment. Payments are made by the service, either by direct debit or by printed check. The money comes directly out of your bank account. (You'll need to set up a direct debit option between the service and your bank first.)

Most services allow you to schedule automatic payments for regular, same-sum monthly bills, such as mortgage payments.

ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC YANG

For regular bills that vary in amount, you can usually set automatic payments and require that the service alert you if the bill exceeds a predetermined amount. That's handy for utility bills or credit cards. Several services will even help you pay onetime bills.

To give you a better idea of how the process works, we took a look at three pioneering bill-paying services: PayMyBills, Paytrust.com, and StatusFactory.com.

PAYMYBILLS ★★★★

PROS: Large database of billers; service is simple to set up and use
CONS: *Awkward method of marking bills paid*

PayMyBills is easy to use. As soon as the company receives a bill, it sends you an e-mail that displays how much is owed and when it's due. When you log on to the Bill Management Center, you are shown an inbox and outbox of your bills. Clicking on the magnifying-glass icon in the inbox displays a PDF copy of your bill. The inbox also includes a Checking and Savings tab that enables you to pick the account from which the money will be withdrawn to pay the bill. The outbox contains a record of your recent past payments so you can see to whom you've paid what and when. Unfortunately, to mark a bill as paid, PayMyBills requires that you type in "$0.00" as the payment amount—an unintuitive choice.

The Electronic Checkbook allows you to list anyone as a payee, even if they haven't sent you a bill. You can then click the Pay to the Order Of tab and scroll down to the listed payee, fill in the amount of the check, and then click the Pay From tab to scroll to the account you wish to use to pay that bill. The Reminder/Auto Pay feature works the same way: A tab scrolls through listed payees and then allows you to set payment parameters.

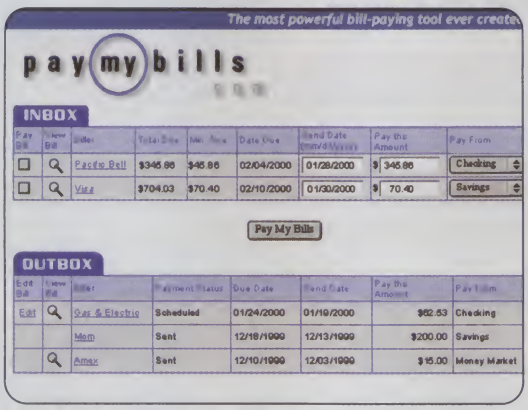
The Browse Archives page lets you see all the bills you have received and from which accounts their respective payments were made. The Download Center lets you select specific account information that you can download to your PC. You can download the file in Quicken, Microsoft Money, and Microsoft Excel formats.

To use the service, you must notify your billers to send invoices to PayMyBills and provide PayMyBills with your bank-account information. Fortunately, PayMyBills has a large database of biller's addresses, so most of the time you simply search for a biller, choose the address that matches your bill, and enter your account number. When you sign up for the service, PayMyBills provides change-of-address stickers that you can affix to your bills, so you don't have to write in the new forwarding address. The company holds on to

paper bills for six months before shredding them and archiving a PDF copy for eight years. After that, you'll still be able to retrieve a copy of a bill for $4. If you prefer, receipts are available online, so you can create your own archive.

PayMyBills provides 24-hour Web access to your account. The site also enables you to customize and automate bill paying. This reduces the time wasted on paying recurring, monthly bills. It works on autopilot as long as the bills stay within the parameters you set.

The service costs $8.95 per month for up to 25 payments, 50 cents per transaction thereafter, but PayMyBills is currently offering the first three months of service for free. The Travelers Property Casualty Co. provides, at no additional charge, $100,000 of coverage per loss due to unauthorized online transactions.



PayMyBills organizes your payments into a convenient inbox/outbox format.

PAYTRUST.COM ★★★★★

PROS: Great info center; integrates with bank accounts
CONS: Does not prevent you from overdrawing your account

Best Buy July 2000

Paytrust.com's greatest strength is its simple, elegant Web site. In fact, the company is so concerned with presentation that it offers its users the option of using rich or minimal graphics. The minimal option is great not only for those using slower, older equipment but also for those who simply want to pay bills as quickly as possible. To enjoy the rich graphics, you need Macromedia's Shockwave. Newer computers with up-to-date browsers usually have this capability onboard. For computers that don't, an autoinstall feature lets you add Shockwave support painlessly. The site is divided into several easy-to-understand, self-evident areas such as My Bills, My Billers, My Bank, and Reports.

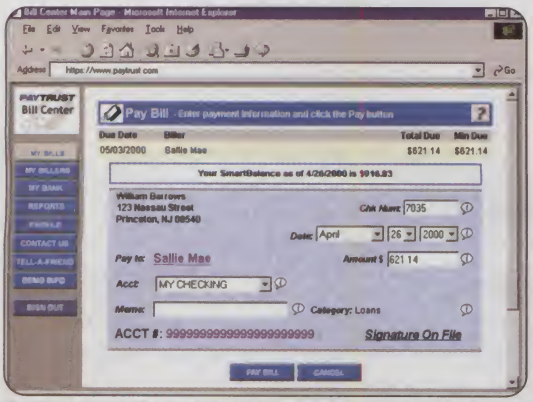
Best Buy July 2000 — With its easy-to-use site and simple setup, **Paytrust.com** provides a great service at a great price.

You can pay any biller using Paytrust.com after you have entered a profile for it. The service then notifies you by e-mail for each new bill you receive. You pay your bills in the site's My Bills section. This area is divided into an inbox, which lists new bills, and an outbox, which lists bills already scheduled for payment. Paytrust.com provides a GIF image of your actual bills that you can view, and holds paper bills for three months before archiving and disposing of them. It will cost you $4 to view an archived bill.

Paytrust.com also provides several standard features. You can set up scheduled payments for monthly bills, and you can select the bank accounts from which the money should be drawn. A Reports page offers access to all your billing information, including when and to whom a payment was made. Additionally, Paytrust.com allows you to pay your bills with a Palm VII if you subscribe to the Palm.net service, and it integrates with Quicken, Microsoft Money, and Microsoft Excel.

If you have a participating online bank account, Paytrust.com's SmartBalance feature will integrate your bank information and your Paytrust.com information so you don't have to manually balance your checkbook. Inquiries are handled with 24-hour-daily e-mail and phone support. Your transactions are insured up to $11 million for a negligent act and up to $1 million for theft or fraud.

Paytrust.com offers the first three months of its service for free. After that, it'll cost you $8.95 a month for up to 25 transactions (plus 50 cents for each transaction over 25). The Small Business Edition is $19.95 plus 75 cents per transaction and includes a dedicated account manager. An optional annual CD of your bills is available at additional cost.



PayTrust.com's Pay Bill page simulates the look and feel of an ordinary check, making paying your bills easy.

STATUSFACTORY.COM ★★★

PROS: Strong guarantees
CONS: Poor site navigation; confusing interface

CyberBills' StatusFactory.com wants its customers to feel safe and satisfied, and offers an ambitious assortment of guarantees. For starters, StatusFactory.com will reimburse you for double any losses you incur, and promises your name and personal data will never be sold. If StatusFactory.com causes an error, it will provide up to $1,000 worth of tax service from one of its accountants and take responsibility for any corrections. The service promises to pay your bills on the day instructed; should it fail to do so, the service will contact your biller and pay that bill (up to $1,000), including late fees. You are guaranteed a prompt and courteous response from customer service, or it will pay your phone bill for one month (up to $500). If your bill-related postage does not drop, you

E-Billing Gets Easier Still

If having a Web site keep track of all your bills sounds convenient, what do you think about paying bills directly from the e-mail that delivers them? Thanks to a company called MicroVault, this greatest-of-ease innovation exists. MicroVault devised a system called NetCourier for Bill Presentment that e-mails a bill and allows the recipients to pay it by simply entering a PIN. Unfortunately, the service is not available to consumers. Instead, it's licensed to billers who can set up this service for their customers. But if the capability exists, a direct consumer version may not be far behind. ▼

receive a roll of 100 33-cent stamps. You'll even get a quartz watch if you do not save time using the service. And here's the gravy: Activate your account within 30 days of sign-up, and you'll receive 500 frequent-flyer miles. If you cancel your membership, StatusFactory.com removes all your account data from the system.

The StatusFactory system is also simple and works like the other services. You inform billers to send paper and electronic bills to StatusFactory.com, provide StatusFactory.com with your bank-account numbers, and pay bills on its Web site. The service notifies you by e-mail when it receives a bill, and also informs you of its due date. You can pay any amount for any bill or automate recurring bills, specifying maximum dollar amounts as notification parameters. StatusFactory.com provides 24-hour-daily access to current and archived billing information and customer service. It also shreds your bills immediately, and keeps archives of the PDF versions for up to two years on the site. After that, you will have to pay $50 for a CD-ROM of each year's bills.

Unfortunately, the Web site is confusing. It's not always clear where to do what. StatusFactory.com provides limited online help—almost no help files or instructions, and the FAQs are inadequate.

StatusFactory.com's monthly plans include Lite (a maximum of five payees for $3.50), Standard (a maximum of 30 payees for $8.95) and Premier (unlimited payees for $29.95).

BILL-PAYING SERVICES

Portals Put a Familiar Face On E-Billing

Under ever-increasing pressure to attract loyal, repeat visitors, major portals are adding online bill-paying services to their already substantial financial-services offerings. In this rush to handle your e-checkbook, sites like AOL, MSN, Quicken.com, and Yahoo are offering electronic billing services that are equivalent to those of EBPP companies. Some are even using EBPP players to handle their sites' electronic billing. It makes sense for a portal that is trying to increase brand awareness to include electronic billing as yet another reason to choose its gateway over another. If you have a Web site you frequent for most of your online needs, integrated billing may suit you better than going to a separate EBPP biller.

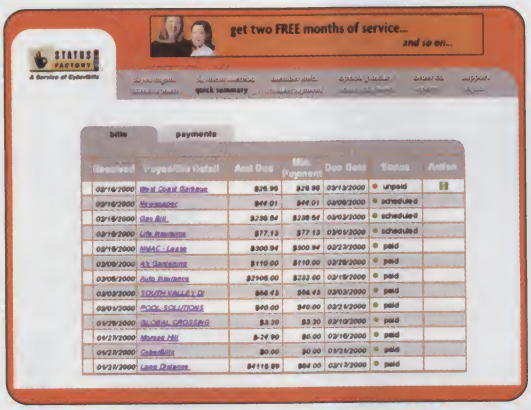
MSN's premium service is free for three months. It costs $5.95 a month for up to 20 payees, and $2.95 more for each additional block of 10 payees. As with a credit card, you are not liable for unauthorized transactions of more than $50.

Intuit's Quicken.com site lets you pay up to 20 bills a month for $6.95. Add $1.95 a month for each set of five payees over 20. The service is provided by CyberBills, the company that owns StatusFactory.com.

Yahoo's site uses a company called CheckFree to provide its service. It is free for three months, and then you can choose either $2 per month plus 40 cents for each payment, or $7 per month for up to 25 payments plus 40 cents each for any additional payments over 25. Unfortunately, its policy on your liability might scare you off rather than give you a sense of security. To limit your liability to $50 for unauthorized use of your account, you must notify the company within two days of any discrepancy. If you do not call within two days and Yahoo can prove it could have prevented the loss if you had called, you could lose up to $500.

In competition with EBPP sites, some banks are vying for a piece of this pie by partnering with major portals. For example, AOL has formed a strategic partnership with Citibank that offers free bill payment if you set up an account with Citibank. ▼

prices. StatusFactory.com carries the best guarantees of the bunch but should devote some time to making its site more user-friendly. PayMyBills is extremely easy to set up and use, although its guarantees are comparatively weak, and its site can be awkward at times. And while Paytrust.com isn't as easy to set up as PayMyBills, its site is so simple and elegant that anyone will feel at home right away. ▼



You can check past payments quickly using StatusFactory.com's Quick Summary page.

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

The challenge for any EBPP company is security. After all, these companies will have direct access to your money—not something everyone will, or should, be comfortable with. If you're captivated by the convenience, consider setting up a separate bill-paying account that has a limited amount of cash in it. This will limit your exposure should anything go awry.

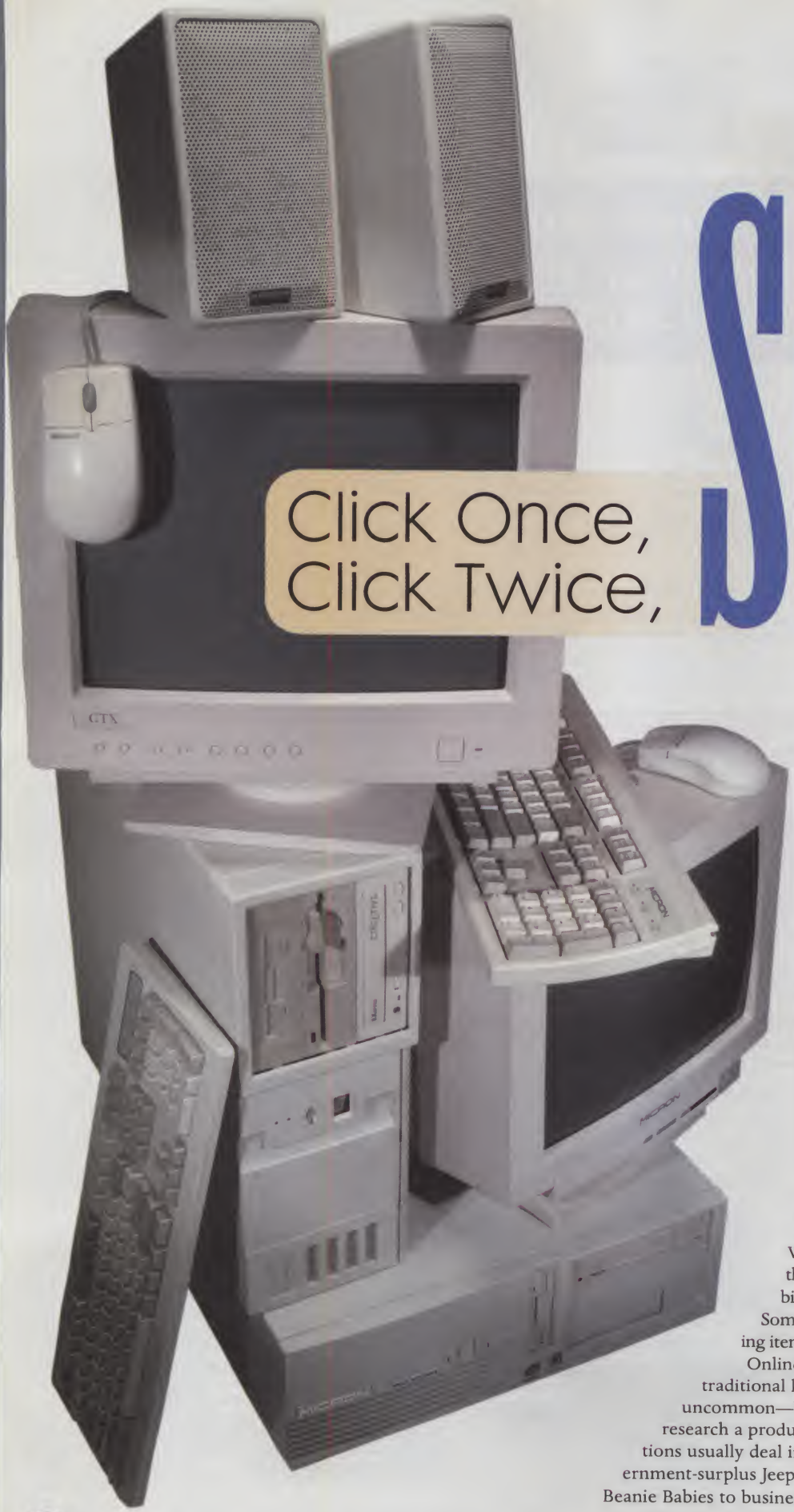
Security concerns aside, all three companies provide reliable service at attractive

ZDNet Price It!™	code
PayMyBills	29698
Paytrust.com	29699
StatusFactory.com	29700

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

< SUMMARY OF SERVICES >

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★
SERVICE	PayMyBills	Paytrust.com Best Buy	StatusFactory.com
COMPANY	PayMyBills.com Pasadena, CA 888-564-6762 *paymybills.com*	Paytrust Princeton, NJ 877-729-8787, 609-720-1818 *www.paytrust.com*	CyberBills Santa Clara, CA 408-844-0340 *www.statusfactory.com*
PRICE	Free for three months; then $8.95 per month for up to 25 payments, 50 cents per transaction thereafter	Free for three months; then $8.95 per month for up to 25 payments, 50 cents per transaction thereafter; Small Business Edition: $19.95 per month, plus 75 cents per transaction	Lite: $3.50 per month for a maximum of five payees; Standard: $8.95 per month for a maximum of 30 payees; Premier: $29.95 per month for unlimited payees



Click Once, Click Twice, Sold!

Online auction sites let you bid your way to a bargain PC.

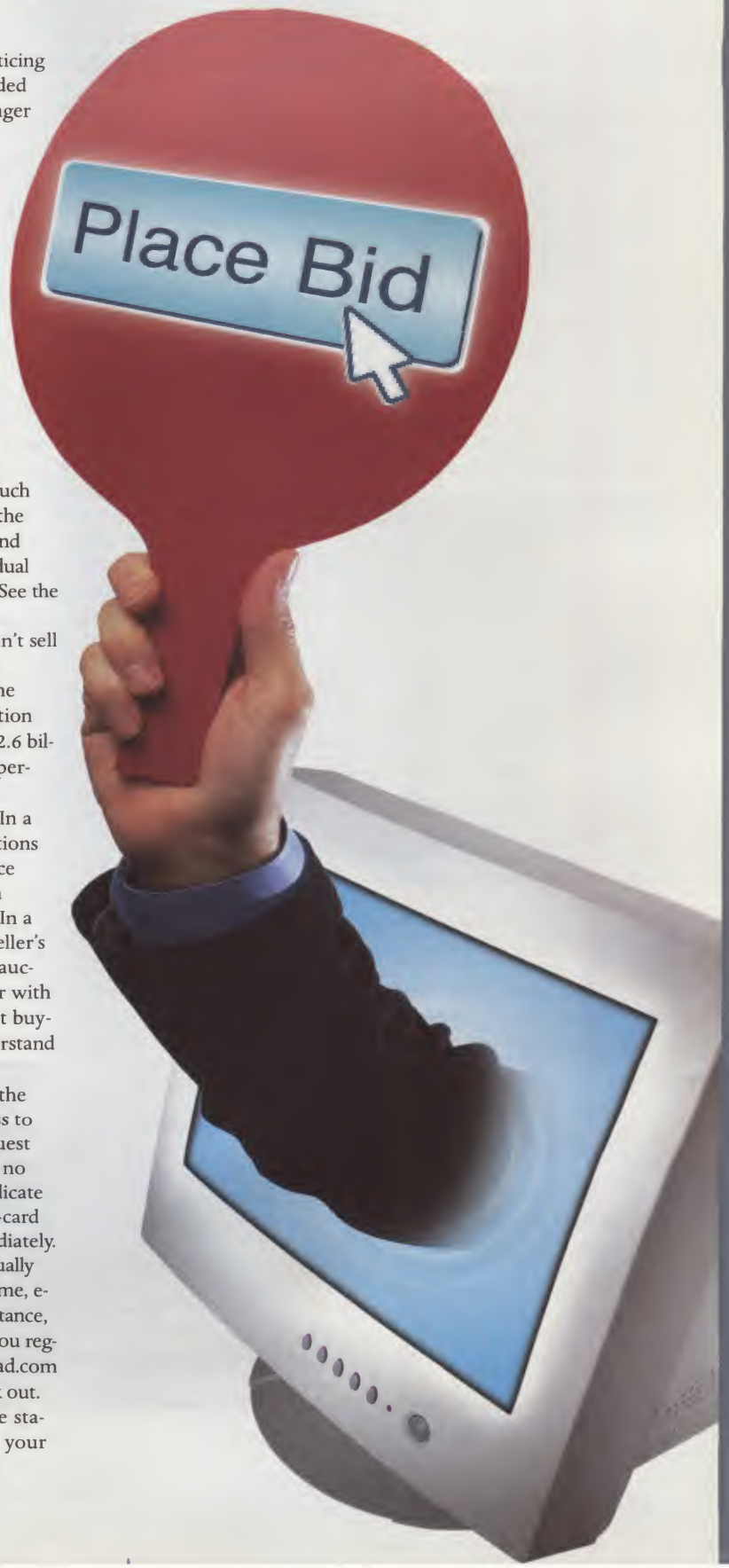
BY KEVIN SAVETZ

It may not have the fastest processor or the largest hard drive, but that 500MHz Pentium you saw at auction may be all the PC you need. Some careful research and the proper amount of restraint, and you can get it at a great price. The term "auction" conjures images of the well-dressed and well-heeled raising numbered paddles while a fast-talking auctioneer coaxes bids ever higher. In an online auction, the fast-talking auctioneer is replaced by a Web server, which also does its part to keep those bids coming. Some generate automatic bid alerts; others send e-mail auction schedules. Some even let you create a personal page displaying items matching your personal wish list.

Online auctions move at a slower pace than the traditional kind—a week from start to finish is not uncommon—but this gives bidders plenty of time to research a product's true worth. And while traditional auctions usually deal in rare art, celebrity memorabilia, or government-surplus Jeeps, online auctions offer up everything from Beanie Babies to businesses, vintage automobiles to vacation pack-

ages, and everything in between, including computers.

If you're looking for a good deal on a PC, you'll find an enticing variety of deals, from dirt-cheap 75MHz Pentiums to fully loaded 700MHz Pentium IIIs. You'll even find parts for systems no longer available in retail channels. Need a 20MB MFM drive for your aging XT or a NuBus graphics card for an old Mac? Chances are you'll find it at an online auction.



AUCTION ACTION

Consumers' affection for online auctions is strong and growing stronger. In 1998, 3 million U.S. consumers participated in online auctions, resulting in $1.4 billion in sales, according to Forrester Research. By 2003, these figures are expected to rise to 14 million consumers and $19 billion in sales.

Auctions have gone a long way toward keeping sidelined silicon out of the nation's landfills, and aging relics out of the family garage. The two basic types of consumer auctions are person-to-person (P2P) and business-to-consumer (B2C). In a P2P auction, such as on eBay, anyone can buy or sell merchandise. The site handles the auction, and the bidder and seller arrange privately for payment and shipping. This can be risky, because you may not know the individual you're buying from, so you need to take the proper precautions. (See the sidebar "Scam Alert.")

Businesses often use B2C auctions to liquidate stock they can't sell as new, such as customer returns or in-store display units, or to unload off-lease systems or older hardware that's lingered on the shelf too long. The category represents 30 percent of total auction sales, and by 2003 that percentage will rise to 66 percent, or $12.6 billion, according to Forrester. Computer hardware makes up 75 percent of the B2C auction market.

The rules for auctions vary depending on the auction type. In a standard auction, for instance, the highest bid wins. Dutch auctions are used to sell multiple units of the same product, and the price tends to go down instead of up as the auction progresses. In an express auction, the bidding time is usually limited to an hour. In a reserve auction, the winning bidder must meet or exceed the seller's predetermined price. This is not to be confused with a reverse auction, in which a buyer posts a request for an item, and the seller with the lowest bid wins. There are also private auctions, which limit buyers' and sellers' access to certain products. Make sure you understand how an auction works before you start bidding.

Regardless of the auction type, a few rules are universal. In the case of equal bids, the first one posted wins. Bidders have access to detailed product specifications and usually photos, and can request additional information from the seller. If your bid wins, there's no backing out. If you do, the site may mark your e-mail ID to indicate you're a poor risk to the seller. Some sites even require a credit-card number before bidding, so they can charge winning bids immediately.

All sites require you to register before bidding. Registration usually means selecting a username and password, and providing your name, e-mail address, and, in some instances, a credit-card number. For instance, eBay requires a credit-card number for "verification purposes" if you register using an anonymous e-mail address. B2C sites such as Egghead.com require a credit-card number to ensure winning bidders don't back out.

The sites also offer personal pages where you can track the status of your auctions. Most sites send e-mail confirmations of your bids and notify you when you've won an auction. Some even

inform you when you've been outbid.

Most auctions offer a proxy bidding system. In this case the server does your bidding for you so you don't have to stay glued to your computer for the duration of the auction. You indicate the maximum you're willing to pay, and the server starts you off at the current high bid. The server then incrementally increases your bid to keep you in the auction and stops when it reaches your maximum. For instance, if you're willing to pay $400 for a 400MHz Pentium II desktop system, and the current high bid is $100 and the minimum bidding increment $10, the system will bid $110. If Bob in Tulsa bids $125, the proxy raises your bid to $135. If the auction ends at that point, you'd snag the system for $135. But if the bidding exceeds $400, you'd be out of the running. This can happen quickly if you're bidding against another proxy bidder, because incremental bid increases occur instantaneously. If your maximum is reached before the end of the auction, you'll receive an e-mail alert asking if you want to place another bid.

Some B2C auction sites, such as Egghead.com, offer express auctions that are over in about an hour.

BIDDING LESSONS

Even if you're not using a proxy, the stakes can get high. A lot of inexperienced bidders end up paying more than an item's worth because they got caught up in a frenzied bidding war. Here's a list of tips that can keep you from paying too much for that 75MHz dinosaur:

1. ***Know the rules.*** Make sure you know the type of auction you're participating in and familiarize yourself with the rules.
2. ***Stick to your guns.*** Before you even think about placing a bid, determine what the item's worth by checking sites that monitor auction prices, such as Auction Watchers *(www.auctionwatchers.com)*, which deals strictly with computer equipment. Or see what a brand-new version of the item would go for by checking comparison-shopping sites such as our own computershopper.com. Write down the specs you're looking for and your maximum price before you start bidding, and don't go over that amount. It's easy to develop an emotional attachment to an item after you've invested so much time researching, selecting, and bidding, but a disciplined buyer walks away when the bidding goes too high.
3. ***Know what you're getting.*** Make sure you know whether the PC you're bidding on is new, used, or refurbished. If it's refurbished, the seller warrants that it's been repaired and tested; a used computer may be sold as is, complete with caked-on dust and coffee-mug rings. If your system or one of its components is dead on arrival or even terminally ill, make sure the seller will either refund your money or fix the problem. Keep in mind many individuals sell goods as is, and most B2C sites charge restocking fees on returns.

HOW TO AVOID

Nobody loves an online auction more than a scam artist. Indeed, almost nine out of 10 Internet scam artists prefer auctions to any other Internet venue, according to Internet Fraud Watch ***(www.fraud.org)***. In 1999, online auction sales accounted for 87 percent of Internet frauds reported to IFW, up from 68 percent in 1998.

This doesn't mean you should rule out auctions. You just have to take some common-sense precautions, particularly at P2P sites, where your exposure is greatest.

- ***Verify.*** Check a seller's phone number and physical address using one of the numerous online directories such as Bigfoot, InfoSpace, Switchboard, or WhoWhere. If you can't find it, and the seller won't give it to you, do your bidding elsewhere.
- ***Be wary of private sellers.*** Not long ago, the FTC took action against a man using

WHERE TO BID ON A PC

The Web is home to a number of auctions that specialize in computer products, but that doesn't mean you won't find a bargain PC at a site that also sells Beanie Babies. Here are some of the best places to find computer products.

PERSON-TO-PERSON

- **Amazon.com Auctions** ***(auctions.amazon.com)*** hosts P2P auctions in a wide range of categories, including computers and software. Amazon Alerts sends e-mail when new auctions match your keywords.
- **EBay** ***(www.ebay.com)***, the market leader in P2P auctions, offers systems of every ilk, from shiny new PCs and Macs to 8086s to dusty old Commodore 64s. On a given day, more than 70,000 computer auctions could be in progress. Community features include message boards and optional About Me pages for both buyers and sellers. EBay insures all items for up to $200 at no charge.
- **Haggle Online** ***(www.haggle.com)*** offers roughly 3,000 computer-related items in nearly 40 categories, and it has been around since the early days of Web auctions. This P2P site is small but offers enough items to keep bidders interested.
- **Yahoo Auctions** ***(auctions.yahoo.com)*** holds approximately 30,000 hardware auctions on any given day. Like eBay, the site offers a colossal variety of stuff. Bidders can leave feedback, and sellers can block delinquent bidders from their auctions.

BUSINESS-TO-CONSUMER

- **CNET Auctions** ***(auctions.cnet.com)*** offers both P2P and B2C auctions. The selection is diverse and plentiful, and you can find a PC for a pretty good price.
- **Dell Auctions** ***(www.dellauction.com)*** offers desktops, notebooks, peripherals, and software. You'll find off-lease and customer-returned Dell products, as well as P2P items from other manufacturers. The site is part of a co-op of auction sites called FairMarket. Items sold on one FairMarket site can be cross-listed on several other auction sites. Microsoft's auction site ***(auctions.msn.com)*** is also in the FairMarket network, but Dell's site is a better bet for computer shoppers.
- **Egghead.com,** which recently joined forces with Onsale, augments its traditional Web storefront with auctions on new and refurbished PCs and components, software, upgrades, and accessories. Its express auctions, which last an hour,

GETTING SUCKERED

online auction houses to sell new and used computers. Winning bidders paid as much as $1,450 per computer, but received neither the goods nor a refund. Nefarious sellers drift from site to site auctioning off nonexistent goods. Most consumer-protection laws don't cover private sales, so if you buy one of these phantom PCs, you could be out of luck. Protect yourself by paying by credit card or using an escrow service. (See No. 7, "Check the payment options.")

■ ***Ask questions.*** Find out when the seller will ship your computer, and make sure it's insured. Keep copies of all correspondence with the seller, as well as the actual product listing on the site.

■ ***Watch out for shills.*** EBay recently canceled the $135,805 sale of an abstract painting after it discovered the seller bid on the painting himself using an alias. The practice, known as "shilling," is used to artificially drive up the price of an item. Detecting shills isn't easy, but there are some things you can do. If the site allows, check the registration information on the bidder to see if it's a little too similar to the seller's. If you suspect a shill, report it. Sites' punishment of shills can range from banning them forever to none at all. EBay banned the seller of the painting for 30 days. Your best defense against shills is to stick to your original price target.

■ ***If it sounds too good to be true...*** In a recent scam involving a $2,000 video camera, an auctioneer offered to sell it directly for $1,299. The seller would then open an account at an online merchant using personal information provided by the buyer, then purchase the camera using a stolen credit-card number. The buyer gets stuck with stolen merchandise, the person whose credit card was stolen gets hit with a $2,000 charge, and the seller gets an untraceable check for $1,299. The bottom line: If a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

■ ***Complain.*** If you do get ripped off, report the crime to the site, or even the police. EBay insures all losses for up to $200. Amazon.com covers losses up to $250 if your item bears the Amazon.com A-to-Z Guarantee logo, and $1,000 if you paid using Amazon.com Payments. If you bought the item from a B2C auction, you can file a complaint with the Better Business Bureau ***(www.bbb.org)***. The BBB might be able to provide mediation and arbitration to resolve the problem. At the least, post your comments about the seller in the feedback forum. This won't get you your money back, but you may spare someone else a similar fate.

For more advice on avoiding auction scams, check out Internet Fraud Watch's Online Auction Tips at ***www.fraud.org/internet/intset.htm.*** —*Nancy A. Lang*

4 ***Check the forums.*** You can reduce your risk of getting burned by checking into previous buyers' experiences. Most auction sites have feedback forums where buyers post their comments about a seller, both positive and negative. Some, such as eBay, incorporate a star rating system. Keep in mind, however, that disreputable sellers have been known to post complimentary reviews using phony e-mail addresses.

5 ***Don't assume.*** When reading the online description of a system, don't take anything for granted. Don't assume, for instance, that a computer comes with RAM or a hard drive. Stripped systems are not uncommon and will require additional components and the expertise to install them. Make sure all the components you need are listed in the description—CPU, RAM, hard drive, graphics card, power supply, and CD-ROM drive. If you have a question about the system, e-mail the seller before you place a bid.

6 ***Don't forget the extra charges.*** As with most online orders, shipping charges are not included, and shipping computers can be costly. Before you place a bid, check the site's terms and conditions regarding additional fees. On P2P sites, these charges can be hard to pin down. B2C sites usually spell out the details on shipping charges as well as sales tax. If necessary, e-mail the seller asking for the weight of the item, then use a Web shipping calculator to estimate the charges. Both United Parcel Service ***(www.ups.com)*** and the United States Postal Service ***(new.usps.com)*** offer online shipping calculators. Some sellers may even add a packing or handling charge; if so, it should be spelled out in the listing.

7 ***Check the payment options.*** Before you bid, check to see what types of payments the seller accepts. Businesses typically prefer (and often insist on) credit-card payment. This is to your benefit as well, because it gives you the right to put an item in dispute if you're not satisfied. Some individual sellers also accept credit-card payments, but most accept only checks, money orders, or cash on delivery. These methods of payment don't offer you much protection in the event of a problem, so look for alternatives. Online payment services such as PayPal ***(www.paypal.com)*** and eMoneyMail ***(www.emoneymail.com)*** let you pay by credit card when the seller won't accept cards.

For added protection, consider an

Winning bidders on popular auction site eBay can take advantage of the company's Billpoint online payment system to pay for items by credit card.

offer a convenient way to make a fast deal. The site accepts only credit-card payments.

■ **Outpost Auctions** ***(www.outpostauctions.com)***, an arm of the traditional catalog and Web retailer, is dedicated to computers and peripherals. The selection is small, but the site is easy to navigate and worth perusing. Most products are covered by a 30-day money-back guarantee, there are no handling fees, and the company picks up the first $100 in shipping charges.

■ **UBid** ***(www.ubid.com)*** offers everything from computer products to travel packages. It's easy to find auctions that are ready to close, so you won't have to wait too long to find out if you're a winner. The Off-Lease Computers area offers a constantly changing catalog of pre-owned PCs, and the Auction Alerts newsletter sends e-mail announcements of new auctions. The company even hosts several business-to-business industrial auctions. UBid accepts credit-card as well as open-account payments (for corporations).

■ **ZDNet Auctions** ***(auctions.zdnet.com)***, one of the largest computer-specific auction sites, features refurbished items from both businesses and individuals. (ZDNet is *Computer Shopper's* parent company.) Auction Alert, a weekly newsletter, notifies subscribers of hot new listings and auction features. —*K.S.*

PC AUCTIONS

HOW TO BE A WINNING SELLER

Now that you've won the bid on that shiny, almost-new Pentium III on eBay, what are you going to do with your own piece of yesterday's bleeding-edge technology? That slothful old 200MHz PC may be just what little Sally from Chattanooga needs in a first computer. But before you put it up for auction, follow these guidelines to ensure you get what you deserve.

Be realistic about your selling price. With new 800MHz systems selling online for around $2,500, don't kid yourself into thinking your 200MHz Pentium will fetch $1,000. While researching this story, we found a Quantex 200MHz Pentium Pro up for grabs. With only 30 minutes left in the auction, only nine bids had been placed, and the current high bid was only $171.

If you set your minimum price too high, you might not get any bidders at all. On the same day, we found a 200MHz Compaq Prolinea at auction with a minimum bid of $200. With one day and 10 hours left to go in the weeklong auction, no bids had been placed.

Before you put your system up for auction, do some comparison-shopping on other auction sites to see what the bidding's like on systems similar to yours.

Pick an active site. Don't choose an auction site simply because it's free. Look for one that attracts a decent number of sellers and bidders. Some sites keep a running total of the number of products on offer. On the day we checked eBay, for instance, it counted more than 147,000 computer products up for grabs, and more than 3,000 PCs.

Add in the extras. Most auction sites charge fees to list items. (See the table.) Make sure to factor these in before setting a minimum price. You can also set a reserve price, or a minimum price below which you're not willing to sell. If the highest bid is too low, you may be better off donating the system to charity.

Take pictures. Auction items have a better chance of selling if bidders can see what they're getting. Along with a picture or two, include a detailed description of the system, flaws and all.

Spell everything out. Make sure you include warranty details and your payment terms in your listing. If a bidder e-mails a question, respond promptly.

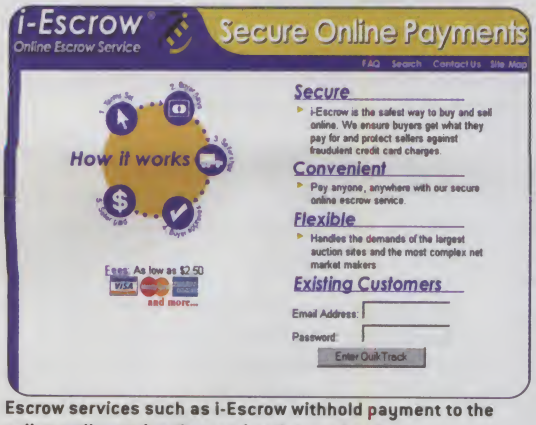
Ship carefully. When it comes time to ship (after the check clears), pack the system up carefully with lots of padding, and insure it. If you prefer, you can leave this chore to a reputable shipper. The buyer pays these costs, but make sure you determine the amount in advance and spell it out in the listing. For a rough estimate of shipping costs, use a guide such as iShip.com. —*K.S.*

WHAT YOU'LL PAY TO SELL

Amazon.com Auctions	10 cents per auction, plus 5 percent of the final bid
CNET Auctions	$1 for a standard listing, plus 3 to 5 percent of the final bid
Dell Auctions	2 to 4 percent of the final bid
EBay	25 cents to $2 per auction, plus 1.25 percent to 5 percent of final bid
Haggle Online	Basic listings are free; featured listings cost $12.95 for 48 hours
Yahoo Auctions	Basic auctions are free; featured listings cost 25 cents per day
ZDNet Auctions	1.25 percent to 5 percent of the final bid

escrow service, such as i-Escrow *(www.iescrow.com)*, SecureTrades *(www.securetrades.com)*, or Tradesafe *(www.tradesafe.com)*. For a percentage of the transaction amount, an escrow service acts as an intermediary, protecting both buyer and seller. You send payment to the escrow agent (most accept credit cards), which then notifies the seller that payment has been received. The seller then ships you the merchandise, and once you notify the escrow agent that you received the goods in satisfactory condition, it releases payment to the seller.

8 ***Don't hedge your bids.*** It can be tempting to bid on more than one system at a time to decrease your chances of walking away empty-handed. The problem with this strategy is you could win more than one auction. Most auctions have strict policies about retracting bids. Some B2C sites charge a cancellation fee; most simply don't allow cancellations. Some sites might even deny you future access to their sites. If you bid, be prepared to win; if you win, be prepared to pay.



Escrow services such as i-Escrow withhold payment to the seller until you give the service the go-ahead.

AUCTION ADDICTION

As long as you familiarize yourself with an auction site's rules, do your research before you bid, and know when to walk away, buying a PC at auction can be a thrilling and financially rewarding experience. In fact, it can be the most fun you'll have shopping online, or anywhere else for that matter. But be warned: It could be habit-forming. ▼

AUCTION HUNTING

Can't find what you're looking for? These sites help you broaden your search.

AuctionWatch.com
Using AuctionWatch.com's search and directory tools, you can track auctions on multiple sites, as well as monitor and compare prices.

Bidder's Edge *(www.biddersedge.com)*
This auction portal lets you search for auction items across multiple sites and track the status and pricing of the items you're interested in.

BidFind *(www.bidfind.com)*
Calling itself an aggregator of auction data, BidFind creates its listings using bot technology, visiting more than 400 sites and indexing more than 400,000 items.

The Internet Auction List *(www.internetauctionlist.com)*
Another auction portal, the Internet Auction List lets you search for auctions by country, state, category, or name. During our search, we saw more than 2,200 auction companies listed.

—*N.A.L.*

SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 186

Trailblazer. Influencer. Shopper.

Shop *for* your computer.

You're the one they turn to for recommendations on the hottest gear, must-have products, and best values. They count on you to help them make the right decision.

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NET PHONES

the web is calling

Today's browser-enabled cell phones cut the cord on Internet access, but can these small devices deliver on such a big promise?

by Bruce and Marge Brown

As the post-PC era dawns, one little device has become the undisputed darling of the digerati: the Web-enabled cell phone. This all-in-wonder gadget promises to keep you connected by voice, e-mail, and other messaging services, not to mention serve up the Web on a tiny little platter. In short, it aims to deliver the anytime, anywhere data and communications that itinerant infonauts have long dreamed of.

And that's a pretty seductive scenario. These phones, which look as smart as they are, enable you to pluck selective information from the Web, receive and send data messages, and even buy a book or CD from the backseat of a cab. In partnership with wireless portals that are cropping up at a breakneck pace, they can give you access to your most personal information, such as a travel itinerary or even a bank-account balance. In the future, you'll rely on them for playing MP3 audio and even video files.

Sounds great, but it's a little premature to send your notebook, pager, and PDA to the recycle bin. Net-enabled cell phones are undoubtedly the gotta-have gadget of the year, but like any new technology, the limitations can be as notable as the innovations.

For instance, you won't encounter graphics-laden Web pages and breezy navigation on a Net phone, due to poky data-transfer speeds and keypads meant for tapping in numbers, not typing text. Nor will you find the incredible breadth of content that the Web offers. In fact, easy-to-read text-only documents can be a bit out of reach for these handsets due to the diminutive size of their screens.

Nonetheless, in the near future using digital phones to access the Net will become increasingly compelling as our personal and business lives become enmeshed with content, sites, and services on the Internet. Only the hardy—or the foolish—will want to haul a notebook around all the time just to stay linked to the Internet. Wireless PDAs and two-way pagers have their respective followings, but they lack the obvious function and appeal of today's sleek cell phones.

And with looks this good, it's not surprising that Net-enabled phones are proliferating at explosive rates. According to market-research firm Dataquest, approximately 17 percent of the estimated 80 million mobile phones sold in the United States this year will be Internet-capable. By year's end, Dataquest anticipates that half of all new phones sold will be Internet-ready.

QUALCOMM
MOTOROLA
TIMEPORT
Menu
tri-band
Sprint
MOTOROLA
TIMEPORT
Sprint
SANYO
MultiBrowser
Mail
Calendar
Address Book
Yellow Pages
Finance
Weather
News
OK
Page 2
Sprint

Even more staggering, a report by Cap Gemini America predicts that the number of business people using cell phones for wireless data will soar from 3 percent of current wired users to 78 percent over the next 12 months. The size of that potential market has service providers and handset manufacturers excited. As a result, new mobile portals for information and "m-commerce" are cropping up almost every day.

PHONE FORM...

The early leader in this wireless revolution was Sprint, which was first out of the gate with a wide assortment of Internet-capable handsets and services. But by the time you read this, the variety of Internet phones will begin to boom as AT&T, Nextel, Verizon Wireless (a new company formed by the combination of Bell Atlantic's and Vodafone AirTouch's U.S. wireless businesses), and others ramp up their Web-access services, employing sleek new models from Ericsson, Motorola, and Nokia.

These phones differ significantly in size, features, usability, and price. Some phones work only on digital networks, and other dual-mode models will automatically switch to analog mode when a digital signal is elusive. (For a rundown of phone protocols, see the sidebar "Cellular Soup.") More worldly phones, such as the Motorola Timeport P7389, operate on three frequencies, theoretically enabling access to networks globally. Keep in mind, however, that wireless Internet access is only available on digital networks.

What you'll notice first about these handsets is the amazing versatility in size and form factor. Designs run the gamut. Many phones are the familiar flip-style, and others are a standard one-piece handset. Some define a new category with fusion designs.

Looking for tiny? The 3.2-ounce, dual-band Motorola Timeport P8160 can slip into the snuggest of pockets. But if you're gunning for maximum functionality, consider the 10-ounce Qualcomm pdQ. This model, which operates only in digital mode, is a fusion of a smart phone and Palm III-based PDA. While these two models represent the extremes in size and weight, most digital phones tip the scales at between 4 and 6 ounces.

As a result of that svelte size, most Internet phones have cramped screens that can display only three to five lines (15 to 17 characters each) of text, plus two or three lines for status and smart-menu information. Two notable exceptions are the Qualcomm pdQ, which has a screen that displays 12 36-character lines of text, and the Sprint PCS NP1000, which offers nine 17-character lines.

The telephone keypad is used to enter alpha, symbol, and numeric characters. Internet phones have at least two smart keys for menu access, and most have additional buttons or keys for navigation and control.

They're not cheap, but they may not cost as much as you might think. Dual-mode phones range from $100 to $400. The most expensive phones are typically the smallest or the latest models. The Sprint PCS NP1000, with its roomy screen, is a digital-only phone that sells for approximately $300, and the combination digital phone and PDA Qualcomm pdQ costs a whopping $800.

The other expense to consider is data service. Service plans and per-minute charges for Internet access are relatively costly when compared with voice-call charges, but carriers are likely to reduce these fees later in the year as they sign on more subscribers.

Some plans are already reasonable. For instance, Sprint PCS customers with Internet-capable phones and existing digital service plans can buy Wireless Web service packs of 50 minutes for a $9.99 monthly charge. Per-minute charges for Internet access with digital phones currently range from 15 cents to 30 cents, so you'd do well to master the sometimes tricky navigation of the keypad interface before you begin exploring the wireless Web.

...AND FUNCTION

How easy are they to use? The answer to that question depends largely on your patience, how urgently you need information, and what type of data you're trying to chase down.

One thing is certain: The first time you use an Internet-enabled phone you'll find yourself rethinking how you interact with the Web. Forget Shockwave, streaming video, and whiz-bang audio effects. Following links in random fashion, as many do with full-featured browsers, grows irksome almost immediately. The best way to use the Internet with a smart phone is to seek small bits of critical information—and to know exactly what you're looking for and where to find it. The menus and controls used to access and navigate the Internet with a phone are similar between models, but not standardized, even when using the same carrier.

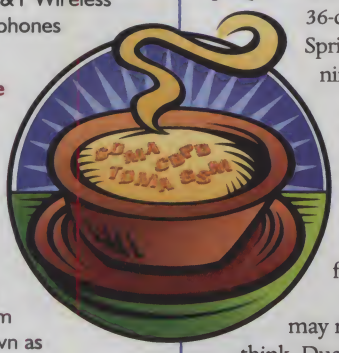
What to expect when using a Net phone? First of all, prepare yourself for a

Cellular Soup

The alphabet soup of mobile-phone networks and protocols is quite a mouthful—and an unappetizing one at that. Here's a quick guide to the technology protocols.

Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA): CDMA is the protocol favored by Sprint PCS, Verizon Wireless, and other carriers, giving it an early lead in the United States.

Cellular Digital Packet Data (CDPD): CDPD is based on the TCP/IP standard and can work on analog cellular networks and on TDMA digital networks. AT&T Wireless and Verizon Wireless offer phones with CDPD service.



Global System for Mobile communication (GSM): GSM is the predominant digital-system standard abroad. In the United States the largest carrier is VoiceStream. GSM employs three different frequencies worldwide and transmits data at a maximum of 9.6Kbps. GSM, also known as PCS-1900, is one of two standards that use TDMA technology.

Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA): Two system standards employ TDMA: GSM and United States Digital Cellular (USDC). While GSM is used in Europe and parts of the United States, USDC is used by AT&T Wireless. ▼

You Can Do it!

Here are just some of the things you can do with a Web-enabled phone today.

- Buy books, CDs, DVDs
- Pricing updates at sites such as ***priceit.zdnet.com*** and ***www.dealtime.com***
- Monitor news at CNN.com
- Buy and sell stocks
- Read and respond to e-mail
- Track the Nasdaq
- Send and receive short messages
- Consult your online PIM
- Check sports scores
- Book a flight
- View special deals at Amazon.com
- Check your bank-account balance
- Find a ZIP code
- Call your mother

ILLUSTRATIONS BY TIM WEBB

totally new experience. With a Motorola Timeport P8167 and Sprint PCS Wireless Web service, for instance, you select "Launch Browser" from the phone's main menu. The microbrowser loads, and the phone provides a text-based menu that typically includes preloaded big-name portals, plus news, sports, financial, weather, shopping, and travel sites. One key press, and you'll be sampling stripped-down info from Net names like Amazon.com, Bloomberg, CNN, eCompare, Fox Sports, Yahoo, and our own ZDNet.

Once you make a selection, you're immediately prompted by a screen that reads, "Calls will be charged." Select "Yes," and the connection is made—and the minutes start adding up on your service plan. The response tends to be very good, typically just a second or two unless you're accessing lengthy content. Sometimes, however, you'll encounter a "System Not Available" message, which can be vexing.

Nonetheless, the best feature of Internet phones compared with two-way pagers and wireless service using the Palm VII is the shorter latency period. Although Net phones do typically have 1- to 2-second response delays, that's noticeably faster than the Palm VII and in a whole different class than two-way pagers, in which a 30- to 90-second delay is the norm.

Internet phone browsers include the ability to enter and bookmark any URL, but their limited support for typical Web-site HTML content quickly teaches you to stick to sites written in Handheld Device Markup Language (HDML) or Wireless Markup Language (WML). By doing so, you'll be able to navigate sites with reasonable proficiency.

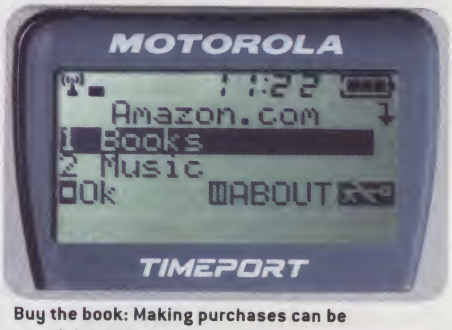
For instance, you can quickly scroll through headlines at CNN.com and select a story that interests you. Click a button, and you'll get several paragraphs of information, although you'll be able to read only a sentence or less on the phone's tiny screen. If you want more text on that subject, simply press the More button.

Things get tricky when you want to view a site that's not supported on the browser's top level of sites. You'll need to enter URLs through a laborious series of key presses. For instance, you'll have to tap the "7" key three times for the letter "R," or four times for the letter "S." You enter punctuation and symbols by multitapping one of the numeric keys until the desired character is displayed on the screen.

Unfortunately, no standard currently exists that determines which keys activate punctuation and character marks, so you'll have to either experiment or resort to the phone's documentation. With the Motorola phones, for example, you tap the "1" key multiple times for most common punctuation marks. Some phones such as the Sprint PCS NP1000 use Tegic's handy T9 intelligent-keypad software to simplify entering text via keypad, but typing in anything more than the shortest text can be frustrating.

Even without Internet access, most digital phones provide an impressive menu of data services beyond mere voice communication. A feature that is used heavily in Europe, yet is underutilized in the United States, is the ability to exchange text messages with compatible phones using Short Message Service (SMS). SMS messages are text communications that are typically limited to 160 characters. Some network providers, such as VoiceStream, enable two-way SMS, while others, such as Sprint PCS, only support receiving messages. With a GSM phone, for example, you first tap in the message using the keypad, then enter the recipient's phone number and select the Send option.

Most digital phones, like pagers, also offer internal address, schedule, and task databases with support for synchronization with PC PIM software, as well as the ability to receive e-mail sent directly or forwarded to the phone. Most also support alerts and outgoing faxes. Alerts sent to phones can include a variety of message types, including voice-mail notification; news, sports, financial, and weather reports; schedule reminders; horoscopes; and even periodic updates from specified Web sites. With most alert services, such as Microsoft's MSN Mobile 1.0, you can configure the alerts you receive via a Web site accessed with a conventional PC.



Buy the book: Making purchases can be surprisingly simple.

The ability to check e-mail with a phone is critical for many users. With a Yahoo e-mail account, for instance, you can read and respond to your e-mail with your phone.

A WORLD OF CONTENT

Phone-based access to personalized and local information is becoming increasingly important for both personal and business users, while access to corporate systems and information will be the major driving application for businesses. If you can live with only a few short lines of content at a time and with time-consuming text entry, you'll find a wealth of information.

And that data is expanding at an explosive rate. During the few months that we used Net phones, the variety and number of portals and sites designed for wireless phone access increased dramatically. You can look up the price of a used car with the Kelley Blue Book reference guide, or find a restaurant by location and type and get the phone number, directions, and a review. You can even check prices and purchase DVDs, electronics gear, computer products, even stocks. For example,

Browser Battles

Phone browsers don't all read the same markup language, a complication that is putting the standardization of Web phones on hold.

It's clear that HTML is far too complex for devices with such small screens. As some look ahead to broadband digital service and believe Extensible Markup Language (XML) provides the best potential for rich content, others are focusing on what's possible today. That means sticking with more restricted languages intended specifically for small displays. The two most popular are Handheld Device Markup Language (HDML) and Wireless Markup Language (WML).

The WAP Forum, an international organization that aims to hammer out a communications standard that describes the way devices communicate with wireless network servers, has introduced the Wireless Application Protocol (WAP). WAP-compliant Web sites are written in WML, which was developed by Phone.com, the same company that developed HDML. Internet phones with HDML browsers are referred to as "pre-WAP." If you have a phone with an HDML browser, you shouldn't have problems accessing sites composed with WML because the two are compatible.

According to phone manufacturers Ericsson and Nokia, the demand for recently released WAP phones in Europe has been unexpectedly enthusiastic. Only one WAP phone was available in the United States at press time, however. But by midyear, WAP phones should be plentiful. ▼

at *www.dealtime.com,* you can check prices and buy a wide range of products. At our own site, *priceit.zdnet.com,* you can check prices and buy technology products.

Most of the sites that support phone access have national content, but some let you enter your address or ZIP code to provide local reference information. When local sites proliferate, phones with Internet access will become dramatically more useful.

To encourage and facilitate business use of wireless-phone Internet access, wireless-information-service companies such as BPA Systems and Lucent are marketing their expertise to help businesses convert their Web sites to wireless formats.

THE PC KILLER?

The major digital-handset manufacturers agree that though Internet access with digital phones is just taking off this year, sales will soar when greater bandwidth bursts onto the scene. Once so-called third-generation (3G) wireless technology is in place, users will be able to download MP3, conduct videoconferencing, and even watch TV.

"What will emerge is an additional piece of the Internet, geared to wireless use," says Mark Powell, director of global portfolio planning for Motorola's personal communications sector.

While the promise of accessing the Web via cell phone is clear, it's hard to consider first-generation Net phones a killer combination of hardware, service, and content. That's particularly true in the United States, where competing standards are a bruising obstacle to Internet-phone-technology development.

The bottom line is that PCs aren't going to be replaced anytime soon, or at least certainly not by Internet phones. Compared with PCs and Web appliances such as Netpliance's i-opener, today's Net-enabled phones offer just a tiny peek into the Internet. The forced discipline of viewing only a few short lines of text on a digital phone screen takes the wave out of surfing expectations.

Domestically and internationally the number of phones sold will exceed PC sales, but even when the much-touted 3G video-capable high-speed phone services are available—and don't look for them much sooner than 2005 in the United States—Web content on phones will be far different from that viewed on a PC. The phone will augment, not replace, the PC.

For instance, you'll likely be able to remotely control your home PC over the Net using your digital phone. And phones embedded with Bluetooth short-range wireless radio chips, expected in 2002, will be able to communicate with and control other Bluetooth-enabled devices such as VCRs and home-control systems.

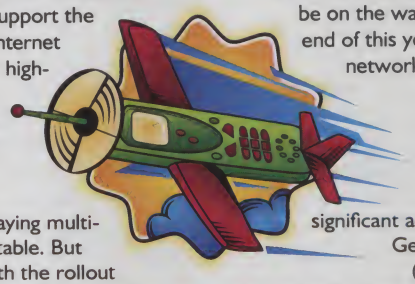
Another future development will be smart phones with new operating systems. In Europe, Microsoft is field-testing phones based on Windows CE, and Symbian—a company formed by Psion, Ericsson, Nokia, Motorola, and others—is using the EPOC operating system in phones and other wireless devices. Until phones support faster Internet connections, however, it's not apparent that users will gain any significant advantage by adding an operating-system layer to an already constrained device.

Hybrid units already announced go beyond the current models that combine phones and PDAs, or phones and voice recorders. Samsung has publicly shown digital phone models that include MP3 players, and Kodak and Motorola have recently announced an alliance that will likely incorporate digital image capture in a cell phone.

Once that level of functionality is achieved, your pockets will be a *lot less* crowded—and you'll be a lot more connected. ▼

Air Lines of the Future

With today's poky connections and tiny screens, wireless devices can display only the simplest monochrome text. Within the next few years, however, broadband wireless networks will support the delivery of multimedia Internet content that will include high-quality graphics, Web plug-ins, two-way voice over IP, and streaming video.



Phones with bigger screens capable of displaying multimedia content are inevitable. But they'll only be useful with the rollout of wireless broadband, or 3G (for third generation), with a blazing data rate of 2Mbps. The first 3G networks are being tested in Singapore and are scheduled for launch in Japan next year and in Europe in 2002. Due in part to the competition between protocols, 3G wireless networks aren't expected in the United States until 2005.

Interim solutions to the speed bump may be on the way, possibly as early as the end of this year. Companies developing networks and chip sets for CDMA, TDMA, and GSM are working to boost speeds, realizing that even incremental performance jumps carry significant advantages. For example, General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) on GSM networks is expected to enter trial testing this summer, offering single-user throughput of up to 28Kbps, followed by gradual introduction and speed improvements up to 112Kbps in early 2002. ▼

Other Wireless Ways

Two-way pagers and PDAs can be used for wireless Internet access, but it's inevitable that the popularity of both types of device will be dwarfed by smart phones.

Although two-way pagers deliver wireless communications, they're not real-time communicators. Like Net phones, these devices display short bits of Internet text, such as sports scores, news headlines, appointments, and alerts.

Motorola PageWriters

Two-way pagers, such as Motorola PageWriter 2000X and Research in Motion's Inter@ctive Pager 950, hold a couple of distinct advantages over Net phones. Most significantly, their screens are larger. Also, they offer QWERTY (but still tiny) keyboards, deliver wide service-area coverage, and provide longer battery life.

The greatest downside to two-way pagers is their latency: You typically have to wait 30 to 90 seconds for a response to a query. And while you can use a smart phone as a pager, you can't use a pager as a phone.

PDAs can be connected to the Net in a variety of ways. Some models, such as Novatel's Wireless Contact and Palm's Palm VII, link using integrated wireless communication. Another option is to snap on a CDPD modem, such as the Novatel OmniSky model for the Palm V. Larger PDAs, such as handheld PCs with VGA and half-VGA screens and near-desktop-size keyboards, can use CDPD wireless modems, available in Type II PC Card format. ▼

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– PC Data Online, 2/00

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– Nielsen//NetRatings, 2/00

#1 in "ease of use" category
– Gomez.com, Spring 2000

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– NextCard E-commerce Index, top 5 rated sites, January 2000

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WebBuyer

SITE REVIEWS

COMPILED BY KEVIN SAVETZ
AND ABIGAIL CRANE

SITE REVIEWS FOR ONLINE SHOPPING

PC SHOPPING SITES

The sites in this listing sell products from multiple manufacturers. See the sites under "PC Direct Vendors," or check the *Computer Shopper* Source Directory ***(cgi.zdnet.com/slink?8145)***, for more information on PC manufacturers offering only their own brands (such as Dell and Gateway).

aberdeeninc.com

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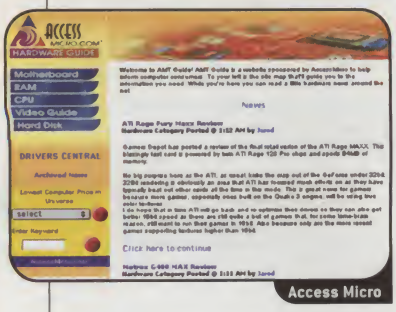
Built for the savvy consumer who craves technical information, **Aberdeen** offers extensive specs on a wide variety of computers and accessories. The auction area lets consumers name their price for motherboards and other PC upgrades.

accessmicro.com

👍 government and educational discounts • international orders • smooth navigation

Shoppers will enjoy the selection at **Access Micro**, which offers 45,000 items ranging from memory to T1 routers. The help desk and hardware guide provide aid to first-time visitors.



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www.applied-computer.com

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Selling PCs and supplies since 1984, **Applied Computer** promises to match or beat any advertised price.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN WILKES

blackbox.com

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Specializing in cabling and network-connectivity products, **Black Box's** extensive 900-page catalog of storage, LAN, switch, surge-protection, and other accessories can be viewed online or off.

buycomp.com

👍 low-price guarantee • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

BuyComp is devoted to computer hardware, including systems, PDAs, peripherals, and networking equipment. This elaborate site is one branch of an army of e-commerce sites, including BuySoft (for software), BuyGames, BuyBooks, and BuyVideos.

cdw.com

👍 list of rebates and coupons • business leasing options available • smooth navigation • easy ordering

CDW offers an impressive array of hardware and software. The comparison tool lets shoppers create side-by-side comparisons in many product categories.

compuplus.com

👍 good return policy

Comp-U-Plus highlights its customer service, offering a 30-day money-back guarantee and free technical support. Its catalog isn't the biggest, but plenty of name brands are represented, and prices are reasonable.

computability.com

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Beginning its mail-order business in 1982, **ComputAbility** has aged considerably better than the Commodore 64

ComputAbility

10 TIPS for Web Buyers

1 Always buy from a secure Web site when entering your credit-card information. If you're not positive that a site is secure, place your order by phone.

2 Read reviews of products before you decide which one to buy. ZDNet ***(www.zdnet.com)***, our parent company, for example, offers reviews by PC professionals from myriad computer magazines, and sites like Deja ***(www.deja.com)*** offer other consumers' reviews of everything from computers to car seats.

3 Bookmark several shopping agents, such as NexTag ***(www.nextag.com)*** and mySimon ***(www.mysimon.com)***, and check with each one to find the best price before making a purchase.

4 Take the time to register at shopping sites that you frequent. When you make subsequent purchases, you might be able to use an "express checkout" feature to speed the process.

5 Anticipate that you might need customer service; read the service policy before you buy. You could be surprised at how little, or how much, a seller is willing to give.

6 Know the company's return policy. Some sites charge restocking fees of 15 percent or more under certain circumstances, and some charge these fees even if you haven't opened the box or if the product is defective.

7 *Don't forget about shipping charges and tax.* A good price can be whittled away by these, even on sites that don't add big handling fees.

8 Many sites offer e-mail newsletters. If you visit a store regularly, it might be wise to subscribe to keep abreast of sales and special deals.

9 When you place an order, write down the order number, customer-service contact information, and URL of the store you bought from. Many Web stores will send a confirmation e-mail, but don't depend on it.

10 Don't forget to shop around locally. You might be able to find the same item right down the street for a great price.

SITE REVIEWS

you bought that year. The site offers desktop, notebook, and handheld computers, plus a wide variety of peripherals and software.

computercomputer.com

Interested in buying components and piecing together your own PC? **Computercomputer.com** sells barebones systems that'll make a good starting point.

computers4sure.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Fifteen diverse departments offer a wide range of products, from networking equipment and peripherals to PDAs and scanners. **Computers4Sure** has top brands and more than 40,000 products, and a running total is always onscreen.

computershopper.com

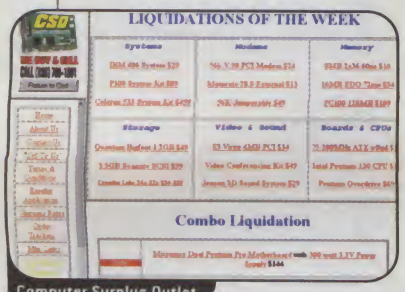
👍 smooth navigation

Computer Shopper's own computer-buying site, **computershopper.com,** provides access to product reviews, interactive guides on choosing a desktop or a notebook, and How to Buy sections on popular product categories.

computersurplusoutlet.com

👍 consignment service

Frugal shoppers and do-it-yourselfers will feel at home at **Computer Surplus Outlet,** a computer hardware liquidator. The company sells closeouts, overstocks, refurbished equipment, and liquidation items at bargain-basement prices. You can find complete, assembly-required Pentium systems for less than $200.



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www.ctghub.com

👍 hard-to-find tools and test equipment
👎 $30 minimum order requirement

Cables To Go sells every conceivable cable, cord, or wire your PC might need, from standard SCSI to esoteric system-specific cables. You'll also find networking products and all sorts of adapters.

cyberwarehouse.com

👍 smooth navigation • good return policy
👎 may take up to three days to ship

If you're the kind of shopper who can't pass up a bargain-basement sale or an outlet mall, this site may be for you. **CyberWarehouse** offers PCs, monitors, printers, and other peripherals.

dalco.com

👍 overnight shipping • international and APO/FPO orders • good return policy

Dalco stocks everything from motherboards to monitors. Bargain hunters will want to start with this site's specials, which are shown on the home page and change regularly.

www.damark.com

👍 discounts for Damark club members • smooth navigation • good return policy

Damark offers a variety of PCs and notebooks, as well as accessories, digital cameras, and home electronics. Factory-serviced items are available, and the outlet area delivers low prices on items in short supply.

direct411.com

👍 easy ordering

Direct411 offers an impressive selection of 50,000 in-stock hardware and software products. The catalog includes servers, memory upgrades, storage devices, digital cameras, and software.

dirtcheapdrives.com

👍 detailed archive of tech-support information • quantity discounts available • smooth navigation

If you can store data on it, this site sells it. **Dirt Cheap Drives** offers deals on hard drives, CD-ROM and DVD hardware, drive arrays, and hard-to-find laptop storage. This 10-year-old company also stocks mounting kits, media, and other accessories.

ebworld.com

👍 can search for age-appropriate games • lists release dates for new game titles • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Electronics Boutique is a gamer's paradise. Here you'll find game software and add-ons for your PC and your Mac, as well as titles for Dreamcast, Nintendo 64, and other game consoles. Check out the new releases, best-sellers, and gaming news.

ecost.com

👍 same-day shipment on most orders • photos and warranty details for most products • smooth navigation • easy ordering

The **eCost.com** catalog spans the full realm of PC hardware and software, including ready-to-use systems, peripherals, accessories, software, and games. Featured specials in each category point shoppers to the best deals, and fastidiously organized subcategories help them find the exact products they need.

egghead.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering

Egghead.com shoppers can browse the hardware, software, and electronics "superstores," or check out the deals on surplus computer merchandise. In addition, the site also sells home electronics, sports and fitness merchandise, and travel packages.

electrified.com

👍 30-day guarantee • se habla español • good return policy

Looking for deep discounts on older laptops, notebooks, monitors, and printers? **Electrified** specializes in products that are discontinued, second-inventory, refurbished, off-lease, or otherwise not state-of-the-art. Systems range from new Pentium II laptops to under-$200 used 486s.

elinux.com

Extended listing this month. See p. 199.

fatbrain.com

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Fatbrain.com is a bookstore devoted to computer books, documentation, and some of the most technical tomes available. The site's eMatter service lets anyone self-publish books, articles, and research reports, making them available for download for free or for a fee.

firstsource.com

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Focused on the technology needs of businesses, **Firstsource** offers a broad range of choices in computer hardware, rack-mount systems, network tools, phone systems, wiring, and business software.

Firstsource

gogocity.com

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You'll get beyond **Gogocity.com's** funny name when you see its excellent selection of computer hardware. You'll find desktop and notebook computers, peripherals, software, and PC accessories of all types. Detailed product information, often with pictures, rounds out the catalog.

www.hardwarestreet.com

1 percent of all profits goes to the National Forest Foundation • smooth navigation

Shoppers in the market for hardware, networking products, and software can choose from more than 40,000 products at **HardwareStreet.com.** Affiliated sites DownloadDrive.com and SoftwareStreet.com offer thousands of software choices.

idot.com

equipment leases available • onsite-service warranty for all systems • easy ordering

Look to **iDot.com** for preconfigured or custom-built PCs. To configure your own system, just select from the impressive list of add-ons and watch the price change accordingly. The Peripherals Outlet offers deals on USB devices, DVD drives, cameras, and other add-ons.

insight.com

separate sites for the U.S., Canada, Germany, and the U.K. • smooth navigation • easy ordering

With more than 100,000 items, **Insight** offers an impressive and easy-to-navigate catalog of hardware and software. More than 90 free newsletters feature new-product news, closeout specials, and tech news.

intellesale.com

"make us an offer" function lets shoppers haggle over the prices of certain products • smooth navigation

most orders are shipped in 7 to 10 days

IntelleSale.com offers a wide variety of new and refurbished computer systems from major manufacturers, plus peripherals, accessories, and software. Many product listings only note model numbers and the most basic specs.

www.jandr.com

3D demos of selected products • smooth navigation

Whether you're shopping for an Aptiva or an iMac, hardware and accessories abound at **J&R Computer World,** making this a one-stop shop for many. You'll also find a huge selection of digital and traditional film cameras.

laptoptravel.com

Laptoptravel.com sells portable-computing and international travel gear, including electrical adapters, modem converters and couplers, and security accessories. You'll find traditional and "camouflaged" laptop bags, laptop RAM, and storage add-ons.

mcglen.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

McGlen Micro's specialized searches can help you find memory and other accessories compatible with your computer, printer, and copier. Shoppers can design a custom system to be built and shipped in two days.

megahaus.com

lifetime technical support on all products • CD-mastering and other utility software • smooth navigation

MegaHaus calls itself "the drive authority." It offers a wide variety of storage solutions, including hard drives, DVD drives, RAID, and removable storage. A technical-information area features FAQs and specifications on hardware ranging from DVD players to drive brackets.

memman.com

all memory carries a lifetime warranty • good return policy

When it's time to upgrade the memory in your desktop or laptop, don't forget **Memory Man.** Besides memory chips, the site sells processors, motherboards, hard drives, heat sinks, and batteries for many types of notebooks.

memory4less.com

company tests all products shipped • smooth navigation

Memory4Less offers low prices on a wide variety of RAM, including older, hard-to-find types. If you don't know the memory requirements of your computer or digital camera, it will tell you. The site also sells CPUs, motherboards, and laptop hard drives.

microx-press.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

MicroX-Press offers detailed information about most products, as well as a handy "E-mail me when this product is priced at..." feature and a PC configuration tool. Customers are invited to rate and review products they've tried.

motherboards.com

With a wide selection of motherboards from seven manufacturers, do-it-yourselfers can pick the perfect innards for their new PCs at **Motherboards.com.** This Web store offers CPUs, memory, video cards, drives, and other internal essentials.

www.mwave.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Multiwave Direct's friendly site sells a multitude of hardware and software products. In addition to PC systems and peripherals, this Web store stocks notebook accessories, videoconferencing equipment, and network tools.

Multiwave Direct

www.mwmicro.com

24-hour technical support • lease options • smooth navigation

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Linux Loot and Lore Galore

elinux.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

The **eLinux.com** site offers "everything and anything" for users of the Linux operating system. Desktop and notebook systems for sale here have been tested with the popular alternative operating system and don't come bundled with that "other" OS. The software selection includes development tools, games, and network-administration utilities. You'll also find books, peripherals, routers, and other networking hardware. In the spirit of Linux, the site offers community information, including an index of user groups and links to Linux-related news and discussion forums.

MidWest Micro maintains an impressive catalog of PC hardware, accessories, and software. Shoppers will be delighted to find instant rebates on some products. The site's exemplary support center offers a troubleshooting wizard, manuals, and a searchable archive of technical documents.

www.necx.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering
$25 surcharge for phone orders

NECX offers all manner of hardware, accessories, and software. The Showcases section highlights products in specialty categories, such as PDAs or USB peripherals. The How to Buy guides offer impartial advice on selecting and installing common PC add-ons.

neutronet.com

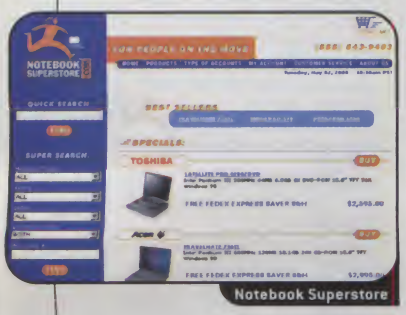
purchases earn credit points toward your next order • smooth navigation • easy ordering

Neutron Computers carries thousands of computer systems and peripherals from nearly 400 different manufacturers and distributors. The site's handy toolbox offers easy access to best buys, help for first-time buyers, and a massive manufacturer directory.

www.notebooksuperstore.com

devoted exclusively to portable computers

Notebook Superstore sells more than 70 different laptop models from eight manufacturers. It offers technical details about each model, so you can easily zero in on the best portable for your needs. Corporate accounts receive lease options and volume discounts.



Notebook Superstore

123cdc.com

smooth navigation

Computer Discount Center offers a wide variety of PC add-ons, including storage, digital cameras, and displays. Shoppers will find competitive prices and detailed product information.

officedepot.com

free next-day delivery on orders of more than $50 within local trading areas • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Office Depot sells everything for the office: files to filing cabinets, briefcases to bookcases. The site's computer category offers a selection of prebuilt machines from major manufacturers. Office Depot provides free downloadable business forms, letter templates, and spreadsheet templates.

www.officemax.com

free next-day delivery on orders of more than $50 • low-price guarantee • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

A few clicks at **OfficeMax** can transform a bare room into a fully furnished office. You'll find computers, other business machines, office furniture, and even paper and pencils under this virtual roof.

onvia.com

free shipping • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Onvia.com offers a rich variety of products, including hardware, software, telephone systems, office furniture, and office products. Shoppers can ask a product specialist questions at the help forum or search previous answer postings.

outpost.com

site can be viewed in 13 languages • free overnight delivery on all items • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Outpost.com is a lush home to hardware, accessories, and software. Visit the Game Outpost to get your playtime fix, or bid against other shoppers for hardware in the OutpostAuctions area. Get gift ideas for every person and budget in the Shopping Ideas section.

www.palmgear.com

mailing lists offer news, specials, and user tips • smooth navigation

Palm-device users will appreciate the extensive selection of free and commercial downloadable programs at **PalmGear HQ.** The site features lists of the newest Palm programs, as well as essential software picks. Shoppers can buy handheld hardware and accessories, including carrying cases and styli.

SITE REVIEWS

pcconnection.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

In business for more than 15 years, **PC Connection** offers good deals on a colossal variety of products. Smart Selectors ease searching for shoppers looking for systems, cameras, printers, monitors, or memory to fit specific guidelines.

pcmall.com

free lifetime technical support • smooth navigation • easy ordering

Many folks are familiar with **PC Mall's** thick, colorful catalog, and the online version is just as dense. PC Mall has a vast selection of computers, hardware, and software.

pcprogress.com

smooth navigation

If you're in the market for PC components and peripherals, check out **PC Progress.** The site specializes in cost-effective memory, with a lifetime warranty. You'll find a large selection of memory, including notebook, iMac, and printer RAM.

pcstop.com

same-day shipping

This purveyor of hardware and software offers 50,000 computer-related products from 1,300 manufacturers. **PC Stop's** unusual interface makes shoppers start with a search—you can't just browse.

pcwonders.com

corporate and educational accounts available • smooth navigation • easy ordering

PCWonders offers more than 90,000 hardware and software products. Additional categories include car audio, home electronics, PDAs, and bargain blowouts.

pczone.com

printable rebate coupons • smooth navigation • easy ordering
handling fee on smaller orders

PC Zone boasts an impressive product selection of all things PC-related, including desktops, notebooks, printers, monitors, storage devices, CPU upgrades, and network equipment—plus PDAs, digital cameras, and handheld MP3 players. You'll also find links to an auction area and other stores: **Mac Zone** and **Zones Business Solutions.**

www.qualityclick.com

leasing options • easy ordering • good return policy

The **Quality Click** Web store covers all the basics for the PC user, including hardware, networking supplies, accessories, and software. Technical support is available via a toll-free phone number, fax, or e-mail, and sales support via live chat.

shopper.cnet.com

The **CNET Shopper** search engine takes the guesswork out of finding a deal on hardware, software, and accessories. The site tracks the prices of more than 100,000 products in 100 stores.

shoppingplanet.com

Do-it-yourselfers will appreciate **Shopping Planet's** inventory of barebones systems, add-on cards, and kits. An arm of the site specializing in software and hardware for the Linux operating system is available at ***shoppingplanet.com/cm/linux.asp.***

www.sparco.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Sparco's catalog of more than 130,000 products makes it simple to shop for computer equipment. Looking for that something extra? Check out the list of products that come bundled with "free stuff."

www.spidergear.com

deals on refurbished equipment

Spider Gear offers computers, cameras, home audio and video products, car-audio items, and appliances. A $10 optional membership entitles you to reduced prices, an annual rebate, and advance notice of new products.

SITE REVIEWS

www.ssdonline.com

the E-list service stores your product preferences • smooth navigation

At **State Street Direct's** Web store, shoppers will discover a huge selection of consumer electronics in addition to computers and imaging products. Digital photographers will find many items of interest.

staples.com

peruse your history of past purchases, even months later • liberal price-matching policy • smooth navigation • good return policy

Even if a **Staples** store is just down the block, you might prefer this elegant Web site when shopping for computer accessories, software, and office supplies. If you order similar items often, you can set up personalized lists to avoid filling out a new form every time.

2for1inkjet.com

free shipping on orders of six or more items, or at least $200 • smooth navigation • good return policy

If your printer is putting you in the poorhouse, pay a visit to **2 For 1 Inkjet,** where you'll find two-for-one supplies for every brand of inkjet and laser printer, copier, and fax machine.

3re.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Specializing in used computers and rebuilt electronic equipment, **3Re.com** takes open-box returns from original equipment manufacturers, and repairs and repackages the machines. Offerings include desktops, notebooks, printers, monitors, network equipment, and software.

tcwo.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Thompson's Computer Warehouse Outlet Center offers "wholesale computer parts to the public." The selection is small—you may find only a dozen monitors or four CD-ROM drives—but the prices are fantastic. Browse the selection or print out a complete price sheet for easy reference.

techstore.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

TechStore offers hardware in dozens of categories, ranging from CPU upgrades to storage devices. The site also offers a wide range of software—everything from Microsoft applications to children's titles.

www.thepartsfinder.com

smooth navigation

A friendly site that uses a graphical interface to simplify finding CPU fans, power supplies, cables, and screws, **The Parts Finder** is targeted at computer hobbyists and corporate buyers. Even the most mundane parts, such as bezels, fans, and batteries, are listed.

tigerdirect.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

TigerDirect's site offers custom-built computers, tested and shipped within 48 hours. Shoppers in the mood for an adventure can order a build-it-yourself custom PC kit.

trudata.com

library of useful free software downloads • smooth navigation

True Data Technology's selection spans desktops, laptops, and palmtops, with an exceptional catalog of motherboards, hard drives, and other upgrade accessories. The site also features communication essentials for businesses, such as DSL equipment and telephony products.

www.usbstuff.com

Extended listing this month. See p. 198.

usedcomputer.com

index of nonprofit organizations accepting computer donations

Used Computer Mall is a marketplace for used computer equipment. Shoppers can list hardware to sell or look for items to buy using the free classified ads. The site can also help you appraise equipment.

warehouse.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

The five "warehouses" under **MicroWarehouse's** roof sell PC hardware and software, Mac products, networking components, and supplies. Go to ***my.warehouse.com*** for auctions, free e-mail, and message boards.

PC DIRECT VENDORS

aventec.com

cancel an order before it is shipped and incur a $100 fee

Aventec offers preconfigured Intel and AMD desktop systems. For do-it-yourselfers, the site sells the parts to build your own PC, including cases, accessory cards, and a wide variety of motherboards. Check out the Basement for clearance items.

axissys.com

easy ordering • good return policy

The **Axis Systems** Web store offers a best-price guarantee on its preconfigured notebooks, servers, desktops, and workstations.

buyabs.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Offering exceptional customer support on quality desktop and notebook systems is the goal at **ABS.** Shoppers can custom-configure a wide variety of PCs.

buy-atlas.com

good return policy

The **Atlas Micro** site sells a variety of preconfigured desktop PCs. Buyers can select from computers built around Pentium II and III, Celeron, Cyrix, and AMD processors.

cybermaxpc.com

downloadable drivers and online tech guide • smooth navigation

CyberMax offers Intel- and AMD-based systems in a wide variety of configurations to suit most every need. The choices range from speedy desktop machines for gamers to light laptops for business travelers.

www.cyberpowerpc.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

From the DVD Dream to the Lightning Professional, the computers at **CyberPower** have names as good as their warranties—three years, with a 30-day money-back guarantee.

dell.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

At the forefront of e-commerce, **Dell's** online store is renowned for its detailed information and *ease of use. The site* offers custom-built desktop and notebook PCs for home and business.

www.directplus.compaq.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Compaq DirectPlus carries desktops, portables, workstations, and servers. The Compaq Factory Outlet at ***www.compaqworks.com*** offers discounts on refurbished and new overstocked merchandise.

fpcdirect.fujitsu-pc.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Purchase **Fujitsu** notebook computers from the source. This Web site offers personal, business, and multimedia notebook computers, with several warranty options on each. Check the Refurbished Outlet for deals.

www.gateway.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

One of the biggest names in online computer sales, **Gateway** serves small businesses, corporations, educational institutions, government bodies, and home users. Its site sells desktops, portables, and a complete line of accessories.

ibm.com/shop

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Once synonymous with the phrase "personal computer," **IBM** still pushes the envelope—its site offers business and home computers, notebooks, servers, thin clients, and the networking equipment to hook them all together.

kaypro.com

smooth navigation

Kaypro's first computer, released in the early '80s, used a Z-80 processor and ran the long-forgotten CP/M operating system. Today, the company's Web site sells decidedly more modern desktop computers, allowing shoppers to custom-configure Pentium III systems.

micronpc.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

One of the largest direct PC vendors, **micronpc.com** has a Web sales site broken into clear divisions to suit many types of customers, including home-office users, large businesses, government buyers, and buyers outside of the United States.

nutrend.com

smooth navigation

Custom-configure a home or business PC at **NuTrend.** The company offers a wide selection of desktop machines running your choice of Intel or AMD processors, each with a three-year warranty.

www.quantex.com

smooth navigation

Desktops, notebooks, servers, workstations, and peripherals: All are offered at **Quantex's** Web store. Shoppers who need assistance can get instant help using the site's live customer-service chat system. A unique community area allows Quantex PC users to keep in touch.

www.sagernotebook.com

leasing options available • smooth navigation • good return policy

Specializing in portable computers, **Sager** offers its customers a variety of notebook-computing options, from budget-minded machines to speedy multimedia units. The one-year warranty includes a 72-hour repair-turnaround guarantee.

www.shopacer.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Notebooks, desktops, and accessories are for sale at **Acer's** site, in addition to ready-to-use PC bundles for home, business, and education. Reconditioned systems are available at the Acer Outlet.

SITE REVIEWS

shopprostar.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Each computer in **ProStar's** line of notebook PCs is backed by a 30-day money-back guarantee, a speedy repair promise, and free tech support.

store.apple.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Apple's easy-to-use online store allows buyers to custom-configure the company's Power Mac G4, PowerBook, iMac, and iBook computers. A wide array of Mac-compatible software and accessories is also available.

vaiodirect.sel.sony.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

VAIO Direct sells Sony's line of desktops, notebooks, digital cameras, displays, and storage devices. The Xtras Direct arm offers add-ons for PCs, digital cameras, and other equipment.

www.winbook.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Focusing exclusively on notebook computers, **WinBook** offers machines with a 30-day money-back guarantee, a one-year warranty, and free technical support.

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

www.att.net

AT&T WorldNet offers 450 local access numbers. The standard pricing plan is $19.95 per month for 150 hours of access. For $2 more, power users can get unlimited access. Families and Websmiths will appreciate the whopping 60MB of Web-page space and six e-mail addresses.

compuserve.com

Owned by America Online, the **CompuServe** service is aimed at professionals and is more powerful than AOL. Access is $9.95 per month for 20 hours, or $19.95 for unlimited access. Customers get seven e-mail addresses and 5MB of Web-page space.

csg.sprint.com/internet

Unlimited access to **Sprint Earthlink** costs $19.95 a month ($2 less if you are a Sprint long-distance customer). The service provides 6MB of Web-page space and an impressive 1,400 local access phone numbers nationwide.

free.msn.com

no access to Usenet newsgroups

MSN Internet Access costs $21.95 per month for unlimited access, and the first month is free. You'll also find more than 800 U.S. and international access numbers. The service is not available for Mac users. MSN provides 12MB for Web pages.

www.mciworld.com

MCI WorldCom offers more than 750 local access numbers across the United States. It costs $19.95 for up to 150 hours of access each month ($3 less if you are an MCI long-distance customer). Additional online time is 99 cents an hour.

www.newaol.com

Known for its ease of use, **America Online** is the nation's most popular ISP. It offers many pricing plans, including one for $21.95 per month that gives unlimited access. Extras include members-only forums, 14MB of Web-page space, and seven e-mailboxes.

prodigy.com

A $19.95 monthly fee buys unlimited access to **Prodigy Internet.** Low-usage and deluxe-access plans are also available. Users get 6MB of Web-page space. Accounts come with only one e-mail address, but you can add five additional ones for $2 extra.

Stop Searching!

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Search | Huge Selection! | GO!

Search | Total Solutions! | GO!

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PC RESOURCES

cablemodeminfo.com

helps you find a cable-ready ISP

Internet addicts considering upgrading to a cable modem—as well as users who have already made the jump—will find a cornucopia of information at **Cablemodeminfo.com.** You'll find reviews of cable-modem hardware and tips on sharing a modem between PCs.

dailyedeals.com

Extended listing this month. See this page.

dcresource.com

message board • links to digital-camera stores

The **Digital Camera Resource Page** is an unbiased, comprehensive source of information for digital-camera buyers and owners. Shoppers will enjoy the FAQ page, buyer's guide, and reviews.

dealtime.com

site can alert you to new deals that meet your specifications by pager, e-mail, or Desktop Notifier software • smooth navigation

DealTime is an independent comparison-shopping service that helps you decide where to buy online. The site aggregates prices from hundreds of merchants, auctions, and classified sites.

56k.com

downloads of the latest modem firmware • smooth navigation

Don't buy a new modem until you've visited **56K Modem Central.** Start with the primer on 56Kbps modems, learn the difference between technologies, then use the price shopper to find a model at the best price.

SITE REVIEWS

www.ftc.gov

smooth navigation

The **Federal Trade Commission's** Web site is packed with useful information for consumers. The content covers the spectrum of consumer fraud and how to avoid it—online and offline. Articles address online auctions and protecting yourself when shopping on the Net.

gomez.com

smooth navigation

Gomez.com offers ratings and customer reviews of e-commerce sites in two dozen categories, ranging from Web-based computer stores to drugstores, apparel shopping to online brokers. Read other customers' reviews and check their ratings on ease of use, customer confidence, and cost.

help-site.com

links to more than 900 documents • smooth navigation

Help-Site is a great place to find FAQ lists, tutorials, manuals, and official as well as unofficial support. You'll find documentation on DOS, Windows, OS/2, and even Unix and VAX/VMS systems.

modemhelp.com

smooth navigation

ModemHelp provides technical support for modem users and a hearty list of links to other modem-related sites. You'll find information on upgrading modems, tools for diagnosing problems, tutorials, and discussion forums.

nextag.com

product reviews available • smooth navigation

NexTag is a sophisticated buying service that can help frugal shoppers find the lowest possible prices on computer equipment, electronics, books, music, and videos. Entering your ZIP code allows NexTag to calculate shipping and tax for accurate pricing.

productreviewnet.com

smooth navigation

Product ReviewNet collects abstracts of all sorts of products, including computers, appliances, sports equipment, and automobiles. Each abstract includes a citation (for magazine articles) or a link (for online reviews). The site includes a handy best-price search function.

www.thepubliceye.com

customer-satisfaction database • smooth navigation

Find Internet businesses that deliver the best service—and avoid the ones that don't—with **ePublicEye.com,** a customer-service rating site. The site uses secret shoppers who patronize Internet businesses, conducting audits and rating the service level of each business.

rammatters.com

Flash 4 plug-in required for maximum effects

RAM Matters humorously explains how adding memory to your computer will make you more productive, and, so the site claims, better-looking. You'll get help in determining the type of memory your computer requires, plus installation tips.

scambusters.com

information on viruses—real and fake

Internet ScamBusters is a site and a newsletter aiming to help Net users avoid getting cheated. Each newsletter focuses on a single type of scam, ranging from the merely annoying to the downright dangerous. Scams that target online shoppers are also covered.

usb.org

message board fields questions • smooth navigation

Check this site for technical information about the **Universal Serial Bus,** as well as answers to frequently asked questions and information about devices that use the bus. There's information for end users as well as developers.

windrivers.com

smooth navigation

WinDrivers.com is a comprehensive archive of drivers and DLL files for hard drives, sound cards, scanners, and other hardware. The site also provides links to antivirus updates and BIOS upgrades.

www.worldowindows.com

hundreds of downloadable drivers • smooth navigation

World O' Windows is a collection of useful news, resources, and tips about current and future versions of Microsoft Windows. Information and user tips abound. The site can be invaluable if you're considering upgrading or if your recent upgrade is causing problems.

SOFTWARE SITES

accountingshop.com

get credit for your old QuickBooks or Peachtree software when you upgrade • smooth navigation

CHECK IT OUT!

Shop With DailyeDeals And Save

dailyedeals.com

smooth navigation

Before you press the "Click here to submit your order" button at your favorite e-commerce site, open up another browser window to **DailyeDeals.** Its coupon pages offer coupon codes that will instantly shave $5 to $20 off the bottom line at major online retailers. (For instance, a coupon might take $10 off an order over $25, or give you free shipping.) Also check out the First Time area, which links to sites that offer substantial discounts or freebies to first-time customers. You'll even find a rundown of free Internet, long-distance, fax, and voice-mail services.

SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 209

a dell pc. an intel® pentium® III processor. an $899 price tag.

[will the advantages of buying direct never cease?]

DELL™ DIMENSION™ L Series

Great Computer. Great Processor. Great Price.

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 667MHz
- 64MB SDRAM ■ 7.5GB[5] Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 15" (13.8" vis) E550 Monitor
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster 64V PCI LC Sound Card
- PC Speakers
- V.90 56K Capable[6] PCI DataFax Modem for Windows®
- MS® Works Suite 2000 ■ MS® Windows® 98, SE
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- 10GB[5] Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add $70
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Presenting a very affordable, very powerful Dell™ Dimension™ L Series Desktop PC.

The idea is simple, cut out the middleman, give people a better deal. The proof is astonishing, a Dell™ Dimension™ loaded with an Intel® Pentium® III processor for just $899. This speedy processor gives your family the power to run all kinds of software, video, music, and games. Plus, this Dimension comes with 64MB of memory, speakers, modem, and a monitor. Getting this Dell PC, with this Intel Pentium III processor at this amazing price is like reaching into your pocket for a tissue and pulling out a twenty. A great deal on a Dell computer with an Intel Pentium III processor is just one more way Dell4me™ is helping you get the most out of your PC. Dell's award-winning service and support is another. And you can only get it by buying direct from Dell.

intel inside pentium® III

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We're committed to helping you get the most out of your PC. And that's why the Dell4me™ total ownership experience includes the latest Dell™ products and services, many of which you can access online:

INTEL® PENTIUM® III PROCESSORS at 1GHz . For pure processing power on our Dell™ Dimension™ desktops. Supplies are limited, don't get left in the dust. And now 700MHz of processing power is available on Inspiron™ notebooks.

DELL MOVIE STUDIO: The magic of the movies made easy. Capture, create, and share movies using the factory installed 1394 Card with MGI VideoWave® III Digital Editing Software, Dell edition. Available on select Inspiron and Dimension systems — www.dell4me.com/moviestudio

64MB DDR GRAPHICS CARD: Double data rate technology with twice as much memory for awesome gaming— www.dell4me.com/64MBddr

AT-HOME SERVICE. Next-Business-Day Service[4] is available with every Dell Home System. If you have a problem, call 24x7 for a tech to troubleshoot with you over the phone. If hardware support is needed after phone-based troubleshooting, a technician can be sent to your home or wherever you may be when you're on the road with our Inspiron notebooks.

DELL™ NOTEBOOKS:

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 3800

Design and Affordability

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 450MHz
- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
- 32MB SDRAM
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- 3D® Positional Sound with Wavetable
- 53WHr Lithium Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
- MS® Works Suite 2000 ■ MS® Windows® 98, SE
- 1-Yr Limited Warranty[2]
- 1-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service[4]

$1449 E-VALUE CODE 05826-800614

As low as $40/Mo., for 48 Mos.[17]

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 5000

Performance and Mobility

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 600MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology[34]
- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- 32MB SDRAM
- 6.0GB[5] Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Modular 32X Max CD-ROM
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI RAGE Mobility™-P 3D Video
- 3D® Positional Sound with Wavetable
- 52WHr Lithium Ion Battery
- Internal V.90 56K Capable[6] Fax Modem
- MS® Works Suite 2000 ■ MS® Windows® 98, SE
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty[2]
- 3-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service[4]

$1979 E-VALUE CODE 05826-800619c

As low as $54/Mo., for 48 Mos.[17]

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 5000

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- 96MB SDRAM ■ 12GB[5] Ultra ATA Hard Drive
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- 3D® Positional Sound with Wavetable
- 52WHr Lithium Ion Battery
- Internal V.90 56K Capable[6] Fax Modem
- MS® Works Suite 2000 ■ MS® Windows® 98, SE
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty[2]
- 3-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service[4]

$2879 E-VALUE CODE 05826-800628c

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DELL™ DESKTOPS:

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- 15" (13.8" vis) E550 Monitor
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster 64V PCI LC Sound Card
- PC Speakers
- V.90 56K Capable[6] PCI DataFax Modem for Windows®
- MS® Works Suite 2000 ■ MS® Windows® 98, SE
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service[4]

$799 E•VALUE CODE 05826-500607

As low as $22/Mo., for 48 Mos.[17]

DELL™ DIMENSION™ L Series

Affordable Desktop Solution

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- 64MB SDRAM ■ 7.5GB[5] Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 15" (13.8" vis) E550 Monitor
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster 64V PCI LC Sound Card
- PC Speakers
- V.90 56K Capable[6] PCI DataFax Modem for Windows®
- MS® Works Suite 2000 ■ MS® Windows® 98, SE
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service[4]

$899 E•VALUE CODE 05826-500608

As low as $25/Mo., for 48 Mos.[17]

DELL™ DIMENSION™ XPS T Series

High Performance, Great Value

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 800E MHz
- 128MB SDRAM ■ 30GB[5] Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 17" (16.0" vis, .26dp) M780 Monitor
- 32MB NVIDIA TNT2 M64 AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
- Turtle Beach Montego®II A3D™ 320V Sound Card
- harman/kardon Speakers
- V.90 56K Capable[6] PCI Telephony Modem for Windows®
- MS® Works Suite 2000 ■ MS® Windows® 98, SE
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service[4]

$1499 E•VALUE CODE 05826-500614m

As low as $41/Mo., for 48 Mos.[17]

DELL™ DIMENSION™ XPS B Series

Cutting-Edge Technology

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 866MHz
- 128MB RDRAM ■ 40GB[5] Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 19" (17.9" vis, .24 -.25AG) P991 FD Trinitron® Monitor
- 32MB NVIDIA geFORCE 4X AGP Graphics
- 12X Max DVD-ROM Drive
- SB Live! Value Digital
- Harman Kardon HK-595 Surround Sound Speakers with Subwoofer
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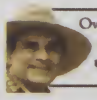

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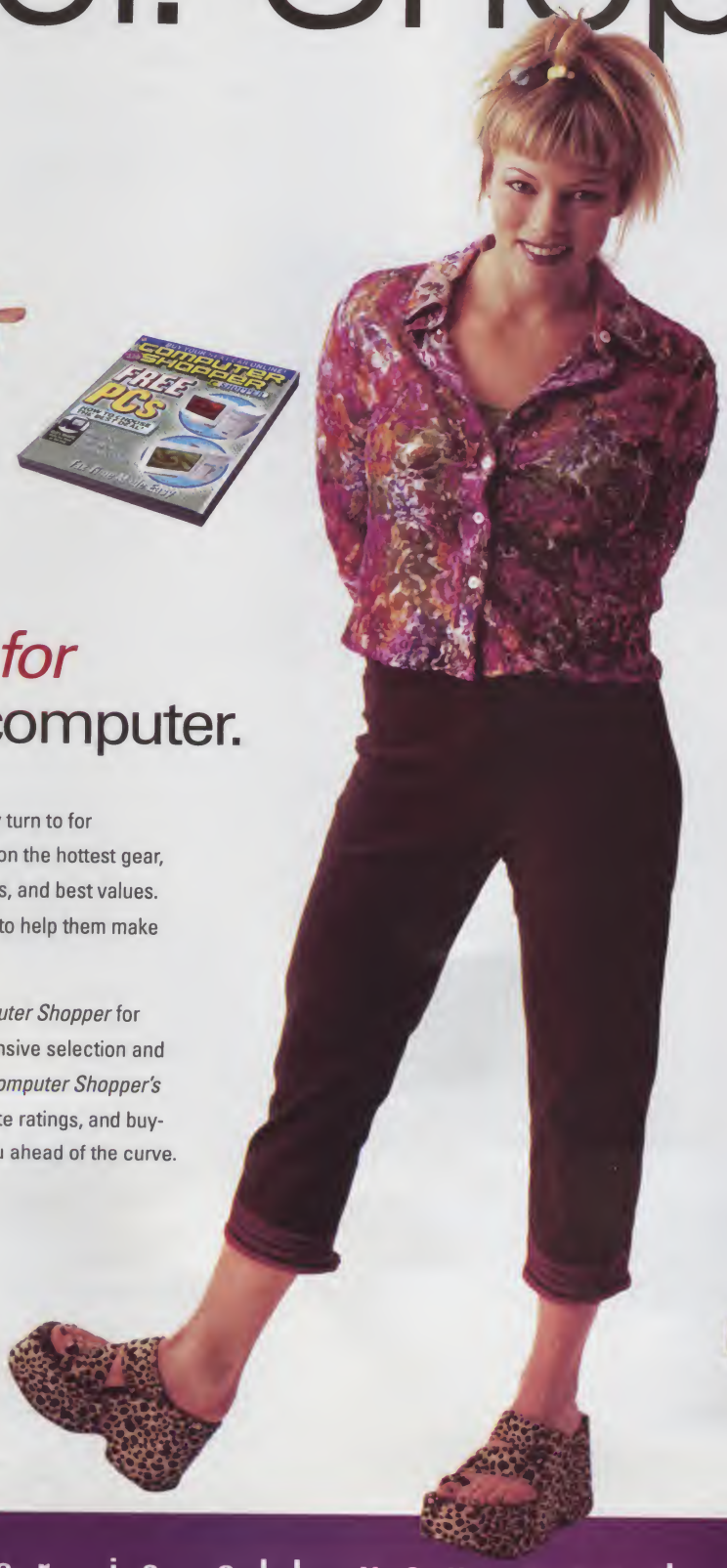

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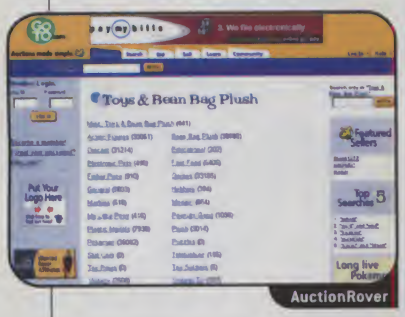

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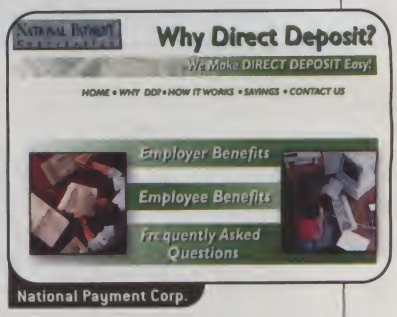

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👎 orders may take three weeks to fill

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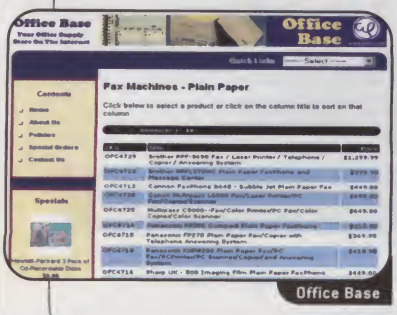

onlinepayroll.com

Online Business Services will help any business become more efficient and receive more than 80 financial reports. Online Payroll can receive input by telephone, fax, modem, or direct link with your electronic time clock.

paycheckcity.com

Paycheck City provides Web-based calculators to verify the accuracy of payroll checks. Employers can use the site to complete W-4 forms, and employees can verify what they should be paying in federal, state, and Social Security taxes.

pointofsale.com

Pointofsale.com specializes in retail essentials, including point-of-sale software and hardware, bar-code scanners, magnetic-stripe readers, and receipt printers. FAQs answer basic questions about bar codes, POS systems, and cash drawers.

smartship.com

👍 helps find your nearest package drop-off site
👎 limited information about smaller carriers

SmartShip makes it easy to select the right carrier for your shipments. Enter the weight and other details about your package, and the site will help you choose the best major carrier, whether your priority is speed or cost.

www.ssa.gov

👍 smooth navigation

The **Social Security Administration's** site can make the necessary task of paying Social Security understandable to small-business owners. The Guide for Employers offers detailed help with employer wage-filing responsibilities. The FAQ answers questions about documentation and filing deadlines.

stamps.com

👍 no special hardware required
👎 must be online to print postage

Stamps.com lets customers buy postage online and print it using an inkjet or laser printer. You can send items first-class, Priority, and Express Mail. Delivery confirmation and certified mail are also available.

SITE REVIEWS

usa.net

USA.net can set up a Web post office for your business, letting you and your employees have instant access to e-mail from any Web browser. The long list of standard and premium features includes necessities such as spell-checking and language translation.

www.virtualpayroll.com

Virtual Payroll simplifies the cycle of payroll and taxes for small businesses. Through this secure site, company and employee information is entered to set up initial payroll accounts; with periodic updates, employees are paid by direct deposit within 48 hours.

webex.com

👍 offers Web-based business collaboration
👎 requires a special plug-in

WebEx is an online collaboration system that hosts thousands of daily meetings. Share documents and applications with colleagues who have your meeting-room password and the WebEx plug-in. Free "virtual offices" offer personalized conference rooms with online calendar, address-book, document-storage, and directory tools.

TRAVEL AND LEISURE

all-hotels.com

👍 smooth navigation

All-Hotels.com connects travelers to a whopping 40,000 online-bookable hotels. The main directory will help you find lodging around the world, sometimes at reduced rates for Internet users. Links to each hotel's home page are provided when available.

www.biztravel.com

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Research your destination, plan your trip, and make airline, car, and hotel reservations at **Biztravel.** Catering to the business traveler, Biztravel offers unique services, including predeparture pager alerts and the ability to download your itinerary to your palmtop.

expedia.com

👍 sells luggage and accessories • smooth navigation

At **Expedia.com,** travelers can book flights, hotel rooms, cars, vacation packages, and cruises. A fare calendar makes it easy for shoppers to see the lowest airfares available. The

TIPS For Using Online Drugstores

> Shopping for prescription drugs online is convenient, but shipping time—two days or more, depending on how your order is shipped—makes it the wrong choice when you need something immediately.

> In addition to prescription medications, you can buy nonprescription drugs and health and beauty aids at online drug stores such as drugstore.com and PlanetRx.com.

> If you are ordering prescription drugs and have health insurance, first verify that the online store accepts your insurance.

> The information a pharmacist provides about prescription drugs, such as side effects and interactions, is vital. If the Web site doesn't provide the information you need, ask your doctor for specifics about the drug. Online pharmacist WebMD ***(www.webmd.com)*** offers a free prescription-drug database and the Physician's Desk Reference Family Guide to over-the-counter drugs.

> Web drugstores offer most prescription drugs, but some, such as Class II narcotics, might not be available.

> You'll find many players in the new online drugstore market, and companies are eager to get your business. Keep an eye out for freebie offers, especially for first-time customers, and discounted pricing.

> If you are in a hurry, your local drugstore—including chains such as Longs Drugs ***(www.longs.com/efills)*** and CVS ***(www.cvs.com)***—might allow you to place an order online. You can usually pick it up or have it delivered.

FareTracker tool keeps tabs on fares to particular destinations and e-mails alerts.

got.com

👍 information on major chains and regional providers

Shoppers can make instant reservations for air travel, rental cars, and hotels at **Global Online Travel.** Vacation packages are available, or you can design your own. The Global Spotlight section offers information on myriad topics ranging from spa vacations to flying with pets.

Global Online Travel

hoteldiscount.com

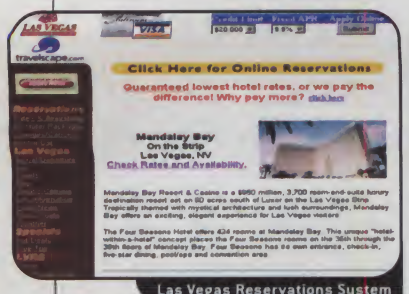
👍 smooth navigation

The Hotel Reservations Network allows travelers to comparison-shop, find accommodations, and make reservations in 2,000 hotels in 40 cities in the United States, Europe, and Canada. **Hoteldiscount.com** specializes in providing accommodations during peak sold-out periods.

lvrs.com

👍 entertainment calendar and reviews

With more than two dozen Las Vegas hotels from which to choose, **Las Vegas Reservations System** lets shoppers price and book their accommodations without a lot of calling around. Check out what each hotel has to offer, from museums to roller coasters.



Las Vegas Reservations System

onetravel.com

👍 smooth navigation • Ask the Expert feature offers advice on air travel

The **1travel.com** site boasts a huge variety of specialty vacations, plus a wide array of options in destinations and lodging. Check out your travel choices, such as train trips, cruises, or tours. See all the lodging alternatives: apartments, bed-and-breakfasts, even spas.

placestostay.com

A tool for finding lodging and making reservations, **Places to Stay** lists more than 10,000 hotels, bed-and-breakfasts, inns, and resorts. Book, modify, or cancel your reservation online, and you get an instant confirmation.

tickets.com

👍 smooth navigation • buy tickets directly or at auction

Entertainment, sports, and travel: If you need a ticket to get in, chances are you can buy that ticket at **Tickets.com.** The site also offers information about—and tickets to—family entertainment venues, including museums, zoos, and theme parks.

travel.discovery.com

👍 world maps

From the cable channel of the same name, the **Travel Channel** offers pointers to vacation-information sites and more. The forums let you discuss educational vacations and critique travel books. The shopping area offers CD-ROMs, books, videos, and deals on tours and cruises.

travelite.org

👍 links to commercial sites where you can buy travel essentials

The **Travelite FAQ** offers tips on traveling light—with just a carry-on bag and without the worry of losing checked bags. The site reviews luggage, gives wardrobe selection tips, explains electrical adapters, and more.

SITE REVIEWS

travelocity.com

Travelocity provides secure online transactions for air, car, and hotel reservations. At this site, you can research potential destinations, find a bed-and-breakfast, make your reservations, and find a deal on a rental car.

travelscape.com

👍 no-risk reservation guarantee • around-the-clock customer service by phone

Simply choose from **TravelScape's** selection of major U.S. cities, then pick the dates of your vacation. This Web-based travel store outlines the options and lets you determine your itinerary.

travelweb.com

You can book your flight, rent a car, and find a hotel room with **TravelWeb.** Search for hotels by city, amenity, price range, and other criteria.

travel.yahoo.com

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At **Yahoo Travel,** you can buy your next vacation or plan ahead. You can search by destination, activity (such as cruises, adventure tours, and sports), or lifestyle (such as vegetarian, singles, or special needs).

trip.com

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CONSUMER ELECTRONICS

consumer-direct.com

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Shopping for something simple, such as a surge protector? Or complicated, like satellite receivers? Either way, **Consumer Direct Warehouse** can provide a selection of brands and styles to explore.

Consumer Direct Warehouse

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CHECK IT OUT!

Hifi.com Hooks You Up With Entertainment Equipment

hifi.com

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Hifi.com can help you update your entertainment system, whether it's a cassette deck and a turntable with mock-wood paneling or last year's state of the art. The site offers home-audio and home-theater products for everyone from the budget-minded to the most sophisticated audiophile. The site also sells televisions, portable audio devices, and DVD players and discs. Essential accessories include cables, surge protectors, antennae, and switch boxes. You get free shipping and a no-questions-asked 45-day return policy on most products. The Installation Support section of the site features detailed advice on installing components, placing speakers, and troubleshooting.

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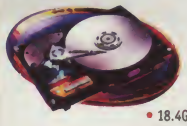

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Here's a site to visit whether you're in the market for a home theater or a car stereo. **Crutchfield** also offers toll-free technical assistance.

800.com

review your complete order history • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

The **800.com** site specializes in video and audio systems, personal electronics, video games, and movies. See side-by-side comparisons of products. The selection includes digital cameras, televisions, and home and car stereos.

electronics.net

auction merchandise available • smooth navigation

As the online division of an established retail business, **electronics.net** has a great selection of appliances, such as home-office necessities, consumer-electronics items, auto alarm systems, and hair dryers. Special orders are welcome, and online coupons are available.

etown.com

smooth navigation

shipping costs and return policies can vary among etown.com partners

Consumer electronics is the focus at **etown.com,** a site offering gadgets like cordless phones and flat-screen televisions. The site also serves up consumer-electronics news, informative features, and a knowledge bank that explains how to buy, use, and troubleshoot equipment.

etown.com

giantsavings.com

smooth navigation

GiantSavings.com offers a wide selection of home electronics, ranging from DVD players to PDAs. Operating a traditional retail location for more than 25 years, this Web extension combines rich experience with new technology.

globe-mart.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Global Mart's electronics area offers audio/video components, flat-panel displays, digital cameras, and multifunction printers. The selection also includes handheld PCs and uninterruptible power supplies.

hifi.com

Extended listing this month. See p. 220.

igo.com

real-time online support • smooth navigation • easy ordering

The **iGo** site sells electronic necessities for folks on the go, including PDAs, cellular phones, and global positioning receivers. The extensive catalog of add-ons includes antennae, batteries, carrying cases, and other accessories for users of mobile digital devices.

servicemerchandise.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

many items only available for in-store pickup

In business for nearly 40 years, **Service Merchandise** is a catalog showroom offering electronics, health and exercise equipment, toys, travel items, and jewelry. The electronics area of its Web site sells home-office products, video equipment, sound systems, and cameras.

theweb-shop.com

easy ordering

Shop **The Web Shop** for a wide variety of home-electronics offerings, including computers, home-office equipment, cameras, camcorders, home or car audio, and even musical instruments. Customer service is available by e-mail.

SITE REVIEWS

CAMERAS

abbeycamera.com

links to manufacturer sites • smooth navigation • good return policy

Abbey Camera's catalog of more than 13,000 cameras and accessory items will impress even veteran photographers. The options range from 35mm cameras to medium- and large-format models, darkroom supplies, and professional gear.

keh.com

message board offers technical advice • smooth navigation • good return policy

In business for 20 years, **KEH Camera Brokers** peddles new items as well as good-condition used equipment. The automated buying service gives an immediate quote on what KEH will pay for your used equipment.

www.normancamera.com

good return policy

From point-and-shoot models to high-tech digital cameras, you're likely to find it in **Norman Camera's** catalog. See a large selection of film scanners, video cameras, and accessories.

photoalley.com

tips and how-to articles • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

From Agfa to Yashica, if it has a lens, it's at **Photo Alley.** This site features a catalog of more than 11,000 products, ranging from cameras and gadget bags to video cameras and even binoculars.

Photo Alley

ritzcamera.com

free shipping • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

In addition to offering cameras and accessories, **Ritz Camera** also sells photo albums and frames. Shoppers with a retail location nearby can see their photos online in one hour, then order reprints or merchandise with a photo on it.

CHECK IT OUT!

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reel.com

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Movie lovers will adore **Reel.com,** a site that sells DVDs, VHS videos, and soundtracks. In addition to a mammoth selection, this site serves up movie reviews, a filmography database, and an impressive search engine. Movie categories include indie, cult, and foreign. The kids' area highlights flicks for little ones—you can even find favorites by age group. Plus, the site offers its own goodies that are almost as enjoyable as a good flick and a bag of hot popcorn. You'll find dozens of interviews with noted moviemakers; in addition, you can read the latest film news and gossip, then test your movie mettle in the daily trivia challenge.

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CD World sells software, video games, movies, and music—more than half a million items in all. You can get movies on videotape, DVD, laserdisc, or movie CD. Video-game choices include Dreamcast, Genesis, the original Nintendo, Nintendo 64, and PlayStation.

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Checkout.com offers music, movies, and video games, wrapped up in an entertaining shopping experience. The site serves up featured artists, quizzes, trivia, and lists of top sellers. You'll find plenty of detail about each item, complete with an editor's review, ratings, and technical details.

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An independent bookstore based in Berkeley, Calif., **Cody's** offers a searchable catalog of its 150,000 in-stock titles. In addition, the store can order any in-print book, plus books published in some other countries. The site offers thoughtful recommendations and reading lists.

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EMusic.com offers downloadable MP3 music in a wide variety of genres. You can purchase an individual song, usually for 99 cents, or download an entire album for about $9.

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Six departments at **K-Tel** offer a variety of merchandise with an emphasis on entertainment. At the custom CD store, shoppers can design their own compilation discs. The music store offers box sets of popular favorites. The video store offers dozens of video, laserdisc, and DVD titles.

muzicdepot.com

create custom CDs • smooth navigation • good return policy

From electronica to gospel, **Muzic Depot** has just about any in-print CD or cassette you can name, as well as information about out-of-print titles. Tell the Muzic Advizor about your tastes, and it will recommend other artists you may enjoy. The site also offers movies in the DVD and VHS formats.

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reel.com

Extended listing this month. See p. 222.

samgoody.com

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Sam Goody offers movies, music, and more. The "more" includes software, video games, sheet music, and related books. The MySamGoody tool builds a personalized site around your entertainment interests.

www.towerrecords.com

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The **Tower Records** site features a huge selection of music and videos. The search tool lets shoppers find music based on the artist, the album, or even the name of a single song. The Pulse online magazine includes reviews and interviews from pop and classical artists.

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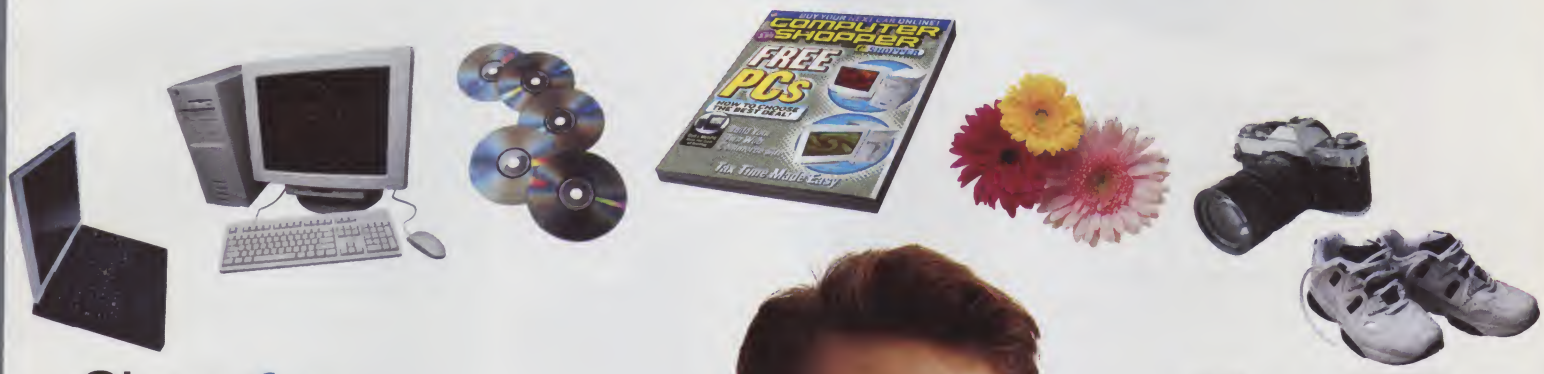

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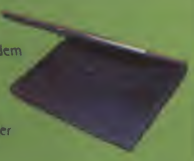

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E-BUSINESS

Everybody In the Pool

BY DONNA TAPELLINI

Small businesses can find huge savings at aggregate buying sites.

CONSUMERS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM GROUP (or aggregate) buying services. Small businesses are getting in on the action. The concept behind aggregate buying is simple: The more buyers in the group, the lower the price.

Sites catering specifically to business are tough to find right now, but the numbers are growing, as aggregators recognize that business customers often buy in multiples and purchase more frequently. Even today, small to midsize companies can pick up good values on office equipment, computers, and services at some of the generic aggregate buying sites.

One aggregate site that does target businesses, Demandline.com, offers deals on services including 401(k)s, DSL Internet access, business credit cards, paging subscriptions, express delivery, payroll administration, and temporary staffing. In the works are SEP and IRA Keogh plans, plus ISDN access services.

Once you join a "pool," Demandline provides specifics of the deal. For instance, the site may specify paging subscriptions that encompass national service with a 25,000-character monthly allotment, voice mail, and overcalls at 10 cents per 10-character block.

Service guides within each category provide particulars. The DSL Internet access guide, for instance, explains the technology, compares download times over various connection types, and provides links for further information. The FAQ section offers bidding-price suggestions and details on what's provided with the contract. An e-mail link lets you notify others about the pool, so you can drive prices down further. You're under no obligation to buy once a vendor meets your price. In fact, Demandline steps out at that point, letting you complete the deal with the vendor.

MobShop *(www.mobshop.com)*, formerly Accompany, features a category called Small Business, from which you can purchase computers, software, peripherals, phones, and equipment such as copiers. As prices drop, bar charts plot the various price levels. For instance, as five more people sign on to buy a product, you may watch the price dip another $20.

Pickings can be slim, though. During one week, for instance, only one desktop PC model was available—a Compaq Presario. The price started at $1,975 and fell to $1,766.95 (with a target price of $1,514.95 with 16 buyers).

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM COOK

AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE

Unlike Demandline, at MobShop you are obligated to purchase once you sign up for a product, whether it reaches the target price or not. However, you can opt to Save a Spot, so your order isn't placed until the product reaches your price, or you can sign up for a Buyer Flash to receive e-mail notification when a product hits a selected price or is about to close out.

Shipping at some sites is free, but not at others. MobShop's shipping policy states, "If shipping is free, you will see the option for free promotional shipping during the checkout process." In other words, you won't know whether you have to pay for shipping until you've committed to the purchase.

Some analysts are skeptical about aggregate buying for this and other reasons. "It's a marketing gimmick," says Martin De Bono, senior analyst for Gomez Advisors. "These sites are not buying in any greater quantity than regular dealers. CompUSA buys a lot more than MobShop."

Another issue: You must wait for a deal to close before you get your product, and some businesses don't have that luxury. "It's great for people who don't mind waiting," says De Bono. The Presario, for instance, went on sale on a Monday but wasn't set to close until Thursday. On the other hand, if the number of buyers reaches the maximum before the close date, the cycle may close early—another reason to get other buyers involved in a purchase.

Other analysts stress the importance of understanding the rules. Before you commit to purchasing from an aggregate-buying site, read all the information available there, including company policies, shipping information, the "How It Works" and "About Us" sections, and the privacy policy. "A good price tag looks great, but read the fine print," advises Tim Minahan, an analyst with Aberdeen Group in Boston. "Your primary objective is to get the lowest price, but you need to consider other parameters, such as location, performance, service, and support."

At present, buying from aggregators is best for small companies and consumers. But as sites offer more business services and faster close times, they will broaden their appeal to businesses. ▼

E-SERVICES

Surf to Your Meetings

BY JOHN MCCORMICK

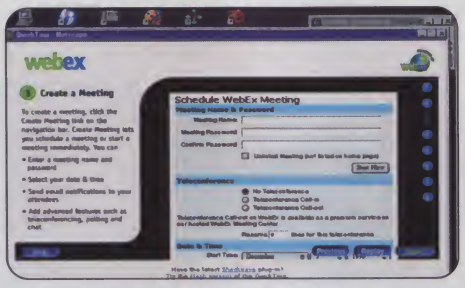
With new Web conferencing tools, you have nothing to lose but jet lag.

HEADING TO SEATTLE FOR A SALES MEETING, HOUSTON TO HOST A training seminar, or Denver to demo some new software? Put down that suitcase! You may be able to conduct these meetings over the Web using an online conference and presentation service. You'll forfeit the frequent-flyer miles but save yourself wear and tear—and save your company some serious cash.

WEBEX

WebEx ***(www.webex.com)*** lets you show and annotate slides, create and edit documents, demo software, surf the Web while interacting with attendees, allow a technician remote access to your computer, and collaborate using whiteboard tools.

Just register and download a Java plug-in, and start a meeting immediately by entering a meeting name and password. If you schedule a meeting for a later date or time, you can send e-mail invitations from your WebEx address book. You can password-protect meetings or open them to anyone.



Scheduling a WebEx meeting takes only a few clicks.

Meeting attendees share documents through a browser interface and discuss them over the phone or through a text chat window. When a meeting presenter opens an application, it appears on all attendees' screens. Attendees can type in comments for all to see and annotate documents as if they were pieces of paper. The presenter can turn control over to another attendee at any time.

From the My.PlaceWare control page you can import a Web page as one slide.

WebEx members can create their own office space, so others can find them and request meetings. Under Health & Fitness, for instance, you can click on "A Pathway to Spiritual Love" to request a meeting with Daniel Mars, a practitioner of zazen sex, who works "with couples and singles who want to discover a deeper connection to love and joy through loving relationships." (Yes, he's in California.)

Free WebEx meetings are limited to 30 minutes, four people, 10 minutes of application sharing, and selected features. Pay-per-use meetings, starting at 20 cents per minute per user, allow unlimited application sharing, unlimited numbers of attendees, and a wider variety of features. The $100-per-user, per-month WebEx Meeting Center adds videoconferencing capabilities.

IMEET.COM

The iMeet.com service from SneakerLabs offers features such as shared Web browsing, PowerPoint presentations, whiteboard collaboration, audience polling, Q&A, support for streaming audio and video, and software demos. Live help is available during each conference. Like WebEx, iMeet lets you transfer control to other attendees. Application sharing, however, is limited to demos.

Free meetings are limited to 60 minutes and five attendees, but they include almost every feature of the paid version. Bigger meetings require a $500 setup fee and $250 per month for every 10 concurrent users.

Because iMeet is platform-independent, it requires no download for the presenter or the attendee. To run iShow, iMeet's application-sharing feature, however, the presenter must be running Windows and download the iShow Presenter. The iMeet service uses a familiar browser interface and works well on narrow-bandwidth dial-up connections.

PLACEWARE

PlaceWare uses a more traditional slide-based metaphor. To run it, you have to download several utilities. My.PlaceWare ***(my.placeware.com)***, the free service, limits attendees to five but provides access to virtually all the features of PlaceWare ***(www.placeware.com)***, the paid service.

PlaceWare allows easy management of massive presentations, in part because it manages multiple sets of presentation slides, which you can design online. You can even custom-configure an attendee's ability to create or annotate slides.

Online chat is limited to two parties, so a conference call is necessary. You can upload PowerPoint presentations, but because they're converted to separate still slides, you lose most of the fancy formatting.

If you need more tools, such as voice over IP or videoconferencing, you can move up to PlaceWare Conference Center for $300 per year and $375 per seat.

OTHER OPTIONS

Another fee-based conference site, Presentation.Net, offers Web service and toll-free audio conferencing for 49 cents per user, per minute. VocalTech's Internet Conference ($50 Windows shareware) offers chat, whiteboarding, and image and document sharing. To download it, got to ***hotfiles.zdnet.com*** and search for "Internet Conference."

Online meetings can't replace all face-to-face conferences, but they can handle many, sparing you at least some trips. Any of these sites will do, but WebEx's flexibility makes it a strong choice for serious interactive brainstorming. ▼

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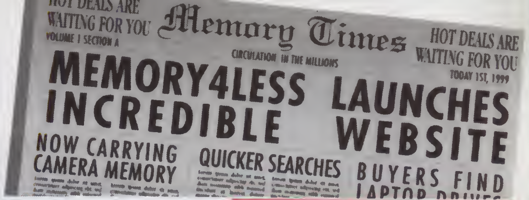

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OPTIPLX GXI,GX PRO200 (DIMM)	62	105	169
OPTIPLEX GL,GM,GMT, (ED)	51	95	
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DELL POWEREDGE SERVER 6300		295	495
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IBM NET FINITY 3000/3500	99	245	CALL
COMPAQ PROSIGNIA 200/1600/R	110	239	495
COMPAQ PROSIGNIA 720(ECC)	105	195	
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MICRON NET FRAME 3101	99	195	495
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WORKSTATION MEMORY

	64M	128M	256M
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MICRON EVEREST AND EVEREST PRO	95	219	CALL
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SDRAM 16x64 -8ns 3.3v	128MB	189
SDRAM 8x64 -8ns 3.3v	64MB	109

SDRAM 66MHz

SDRAM 32x72 -10ns 3.3v ecc	256MB	439
SDRAM 16x72 -10ns 3.3v ecc	128MB	209
SDRAM 8x72 - 10ns 3.3v ecc	64MB	139
SDRAM 32x64 -10ns 3.3v	256MB	419
SDRAM 16x64 -10ns 3.3v	128MB	169
SDRAM 8x64 -10ns 3.3v	64MB	99
SDRAM 4x64 -10ns 3.3v	32MB	45

168 Pin Dimm

32X72-60 EDO-ecc 3.3v BF/UBF	(2565MB)	395/365
16X72-60 EDO-ecc 3.3v BF/UBF	(128MB)	225/215
8X72-60 EDO-ecc 3.3v BF/UBF	(64MB)	109/105
4X72-60 EDO-ecc 3.3v BF/UBF	(32MB)	55/52
32X64-60 EDO 3.3v UBF	(256MB)	385
16X64-60 EDO 3.3v UBF	(128MB)	210
8X64-60 EDO 3.3v UBF	(64MB)	99
4X64-60 EDO 3.3v UBF	(32MB)	55

72-Pin EDO/Non Parity Simms

SIMM 32x32-60 EDO	(128MB)	185
SIMM 16X32-60 EDO H	(64MB)	78
SIMM 8X32-60 EDO	(32MB)	51
SIMM 4X32-60 EDO	(16MB)	29
SIMM 2X32-60 EDO	(8MB)	14
FAST PAGE MODE (FPM) - NON-EDO:		
SIMM 32x32-60	(128MB)	225
SIMM 16X32-60 H	(64MB)	84
SIMM 8X32-60	(32MB)	51
SIMM 4X32-60	(16MB)	26
SIMM 2X32-60	(8MB)	17

72-Pin Parity Simms

Parity:		
SIMM 32x36-60	(128MB)	255
SIMM 16x36-60 H	(64MB)	131
SIMM 8X36-60	(32MB)	70
SIMM 8X36-70	(32MB)	70
SIMM 4X36-60	(16MB)	35
SIMM 4X36-70	(16MB)	35
SIMM 2X36-60	(8MB)	18
SIMM 2X36-70	(8MB)	18

H=High Density L=Low Density

30-Pin Simms

SIMM 16X9-60 (9-CHIP)	(16MB)	35
SIMM 4X9-60 (9-CHIP)	(4MB)	17
SIMM 4X9-70 (9-CHIP)	(4MB)	16
SIMM 4X9-80 (9-CHIP)	(4MB)	14
NON Parity:		
SIMM 16X8-60 (9-CHIP)	(16MB)	31
SIMM 16X8-70 (9-CHIP)	(16MB)	29
SIMM 4X8-60 (9-CHIP)	(4MB)	15
SIMM 4X8-70 (9-CHIP)	(4MB)	13

PRINTER MEMORY

BROTHER	2MB	3MB	4MB
HL-8D/8E/8V	75		115
HL-10V/10DV/10PS	89		99
HL-4/4PS/4V/4VE	75		115
HL-6/6T/6V	65		99
HL-630/631/641/645		55(1.5MB)	
HL-720/730		45(1.5MB)	
HL-660/960/1260	42(4MB)	65 (8MB)	
LASER/FAX MFC 3900ML			55(1.5MB)
4000ML/4500ML/5000ML LASER UPGRADE/CALL FOR			
MEM/FAX SIDEFAX 4550/6550/755065			85
Canon	**2MB**	**3MB**	**4MB**
LBP 430/860/1260			39
LBP 4SX	75		115
LBP 811/B/T	45		65
LBP-8SX	79		115
LBP-4/LITE PLUS	139		
EPSON	**2MB**	**4MB**	**5MB**
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5000, 5200	55	95	
ACTION LASER II	89	89	105
EPL 6000	65	115	
EPL 7000	89		
EPSON	**8MB**	**16MB**	**32MB**
1100(4MB ONLY)/1600	55	89	95
HEWLETT PACKARD	**8MB**	**16MB**	**32MB**
HP 4000/5000N NEW		59	155
HP 4, 4M, 4SI	49	59	
HP 4P, 4MP, HP4V,5M,5N,5P,5SI	29	55	
HEWLETT PACKARD	**2MB**	**4MB**	**8MB**
HP4L, ML (1MEG ONLY)	$39		
HP 5L,5L-FS	35	43	89
HP560,C, 560,C (256K ONLY)	$29		
HPII/IID	45	65	
HPIII,IIIP, IIP	45	65	
PAINTJET XL300		65	65
IBM	**2MB**	**3.5MB**	**4MB**
4019	89	95	
4029/4037	39		55
4039/4079			45
LEXMARK	**8MB**	**16MB**	**32MB**
OPTRAL/LX/LXI/N/R/RX	25	45	89
WIN WRITER 200, 400, 600 (4MB $69.00)			
OKIDATA	**2MB**	**4MB**	
OKI 400	52		
OKI 400E/410E	89	109	
OKI 800E/810E	85	85 (5MG) 149 (17MG)	
OKI 810/830/840/850	79	CALL	
OKI 810E (NEW)		79	
Panasonic	**2MB**	**4MB**	**8MB**
KX 4410/4430	55	79	
KX 4420/4450I	65	99	
KX 4400/5400/4401	49	65	
KX 4440/5410	69	109	
KX-P 4450		65 (1MB)	
SP100	49	65	
KX-6500 (NEW)		55	
SHARP	**2MB**	**4MB**	
JX9400/9600/9660/9700E	65	95	
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS	**2MB**	**3MB**	**4MB**
MICROLASER SERIES	78	117	156
MICROLASER TURBO			89
MICROWRITER SERIES	75		
ML PWRPRO/12,ML PRO8	55 (4MB)		65 (8MB)

NOTEBOOK MEMORY

ACER	16M	32M	64M
730,,760C,780CX,780CX			
782,784,786,787,760I	75		
NUOVO 971,972,970DX,970	49	91	
PRO 950,,954,955,956,957	59	99	
LIGHT 350P ,356,358,359,361	59	99	
LIGHT MULTIMD 382,383,384	59	99	
AST	**16M**	**32M**	**64M**
ASCENTIA A 41, A42,A70	45	85	121
ASCENTIA J SERIES (KIT)	55	102	
ASCENTIA P SERIES (NEW)	59	102	
ASCENTIA 900, 910N,950N	65		
ASCENTIA 800, 810/N	65		
Canon	**16M**	**32M**	**64M**
NOTEJET 486C (BN100)			
NOTEJET 486 (BN22/BN32			
NOTEJET III/III CX	79		
INNOVABK 1100T	65	112	
INNOVABK 10C/150C/175C			
INNOVABK 350,360,475	75		
INNOVABK 480, 490	75		
INNOVA 486NX			
COMPAQ	**16M**	**32M**	**64M**
ARMADA 6500, 7400, 7800 (NEW)		89	115
ARMADA 1100,1500,7700 SER	45	89	115
ARMADA 4100	45	89	115
CONCERTO 425/433	79		
CONTURA 4/25,C,CX	65		
CONTURA 400C,410C,420	65	(129 24MG)	
CONTURA AERO 4/33C	69		
LTE ELITE 4/25/C, 4/75/C	71		
LTE 5000,5100,5200,5300,540	65	65	116
PRESARIO 1010, 1020,1070,	65	65	
PRESARIO 1210, 1610,1680	65	85	116
DELL	**16M**	**32M**	**64M**
INSPIRON 7000 SERIES	49	78	114
INSPIRON 3000 M200, M233	49	78	114
LATITUDE CP M166T,M233XT,	79	99	
LATITUDE LM P100SD,P133S	79	99	
LATITUDE LX475D,4100D/T	69		
LATITUDE 433/C, CX, 425	79		
LATITUDE XP 4100CX,450C/CX	69		
LATITUDE 433M, MX, MC,	75		
EPSON	**16M**	**32M**	**64M**
ACTION NOTE 500C		(4MB $35.00)	
ACTION NOTE 650/660C	79		
ACTION NOTE 890,895,910	69		
FUJITSU	**16M**	**32M**	**64M**
LIFEBOOK 500,600,700 TX SER	59	85	
LIFEBOOK 400,500,600 SER	65	85	
MILAN,MONTECARLO,MONT	65	85	119
Gateway	**16M**	**32M**	**64M**
COLORBOOK	95		
HANDBOOK	69		
LIBERTY	69		
SOLO 3100 LS (NEW)	49	95	135
SOLO S90,S120,V75)	55	99	
SOLO 2100, 2200 (NEW)	89	109	
SOLO 2300 (NEW)	65	89	109
SOLO 9100 SERIES (NEW)	65	89	109
HEWLETT PACKARD	**16M**	**32M**	**64M**
OMNIBOOK 2000	62	89	129
OMNIBOOK 4000 C/CT	62	89	
OMNIBOOK 5000,5500 CTS	62	89	129
OMNIBOOK 5700TX (MMX)	62	89	129
HITACHI	**16M**	**32M**	**64M**
C-SERIES NOTEBOOK	65	99	
E SERIES	65	102	
M SERIES	65	102	
M-X MMX SERIES NOTEBOOK	65	102	
VISIONBK PLUS 4140,4150,4360	75	102	
VISIONBK PRO 7340,7360,756049	75	102	

IBM	16M	32M	64M
THINKPAD 340			
THINKPAD 350, 350C	69		
THINKPAD 355, 355C.360CS	79		
THINKPAD 365C,CS,CD,E,ED			
THINKPAD 365 X,380,385D	45	79	
THINKPAD 510CS,(500 8MG MAX)	49		
THINKPAD 560 (NEW)	45	79	
THINKPAD 560E	45	79	109
THINKPAD 700/C, 720/C			
THINKPAD 701 BUTTERFLY	45		
THINKPAD 750/755 CS DX	79		145
THINKPAD 760C (NEW)	79	105	
THINKPAD 760 E,EL,ELD	55	85	109
THINKPAD 770 (SD)	59	85	109
MICRON	**16M**	**32M**	**64M**
MILLENNIUM TRANSPORT	45	109	
MILLENIUM TRANSPORT XPE	45	109	
MILLENIUM TRANSPORT MRX P	45	109	
MIDWEST MICRO	**16M**		
ELITE SNDBOOK 486/486 I I	85		
ELITE SNDBOOK PLUS	85		
NEC	**16M**	**32M**	**64M**
VERSA E/M/V/P	55	119	
VERSA S, 2000, 2200C	45		
VERSA 2400,2405,2435	45		
VERSA 2600	49	95	115
VERSA 4000	55	85	
VERSA 6000H,6030H	55	85	
VERSA 6050MH,MHX P150	55	85	105
VERSA 6200MX P166 MMX	49	75	109
SHARP	**16M**	**32M**	**64M**
3010,3050	69		
3020,3060 PENTIUM	69		
3030, 3040, 3070	75	119	
7700/7750/8150,8650,8660	79		
8700,8800,8900	85		
9000/9030/9020/9050	79	119	
9040/9070/9080	69	119	
WIDENOTE	49	75	
SONY	**16M**	**32M**	**64M**
VAIO PCG-705C,707C,717C,719C	45	65	129
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS	**16M**	**32M**	**64M**
TI 4000E, 4000M	279		
TI 5000,5100,5200,5300	69		
TI 6020,6030,6050,6160	75	95	
TI EXTENSA 455 SERIES (NEW)	79		
TI EXTENSA 510/515/550/56050	69		
TI EXTENSA 600,650,660SER49	99		

TOSHIBA	32M	48M	64M	128M
TOSHIBA 8000 (NEW)			149	CALL
TOSHIBA 100C/200/400/610	79			
710CD/720CDS/730/740	79		189	405
PROTEGE 650 CT,660 CDT	95		179	
SATELLITE 225,440,460	69	99	129	
TECRA 500/550/650/660	69	129		265
T1900,1900CT,1950,1960	95			
4500/4700/4800/4900	79	99		
T2100, T2150CDS/CDT	75		85 (24MG)	
PROTEGE 2400/3400/3600	69			

WINBOOK	16M	32M	64M
WINBOOK XL (NEW)	49	79	129
WINBOOK XP	59	99	
WINBOOK XP 5 (NEW)		99	
WINBOOK FX (NEW)	59	99	
ZENITH	**16M**	**32M**	**64M**
Z-STAR EX	49		
Z-NOTE FLEX/ES/EX/GT	49		
Z-NOTE MX	55		
Z-NOTE 8000	59	119	
Z-NOTE 6200	79	115	

NOTEBOOK HARD DRIVES

	2GB	4GB	5GB
AST			
ASCENTIA 800,810,ADVANTAGE NB,BRAVO NB	195	281	315
TOSHIBA			
SATELLITE 300CDS/CDT, 305CDS	195	281	315
SATELLITE 310CDS, 310CDT, 315CDS, 315CDT	195	281	315
T2400CS,T2400CT,2450CS,2450CT	195	281	315
T4500,4600,4700,4800,4900	195	281	315
PROTEGE T3400,T3400CT	195	281	315
TECRA 520CDT, 530CDT	195	281	315
TECRA 750CDT, 750CDTNT, 750CDM, 750DVD	195	281	315
TECRA 780CDM, 780CDMNT, 780DVD	195	281	315
COMPAQ			
CONCERTO 4/25, 4/33	195	281	315
CONTURA 4/25, 4/25CX, 4/25C	195	281	315
CONTURA 3/20, 3/25, 3/25C	195	281	315
CONTURA400,410,420,430 SERIES	195	281	315
CONTURA AERO 4/25, 4/33	195	281	315
LTE ELITE 4/50CX,4/75C,4/75CX	195	281	315
ARMADA 1100,1120,1125	195	281	315
ARMADA 1500 SERIES	195	281	315
PRESARIO 1010,1020,1030,1060,1065,1070,1075,1080	195	281	315
PRESARIO 1207, 1210, 1610, 1615, 1620	195	281	315
PRESARIO 1200 SERIES:1230, 1232	195	281	315
PRESARIO 1200 SERIES:1215	195	281	315
PRESARIO 1200 SERIES:1220, 1220ES	195	281	315
PRESARIO 1600 SERIES:1625, 1640	195	281	315
PRESARIO 1600 SERIES:1650, 1655	195	281	315
PRESARIO 1600 SERIES:1626	195	281	315
PRESARIO 1710 SERIES:1710SB	195	281	315
PRESARIO 1600 SERIES:1621, 1622, 1680, 168	195	281	315
CTX			
EZBOOK 5X86 SERIES	195	281	315
EZBOOK 700 SERIES	195	281	315
EZ 660CDT,EZ655CDT,EZ660CDT (PENT)	195	281	315
DEC			
HINOTE VP 520/120,525/120,535/133,545/150MMX	195	281	315
EPSON			
ACTIONNOTE 650, 650C, 660, 660C, 660CX	195	281	315
IBM			
THINKPAD 500, 510S	195	281	315
SHARP			
PC 8700,8800,8900	195	281	315
PC9000,9030	195	281	315
PC3010,3050	195	281	315
PC9040,9070	195	281	315
PC 9080 P133	195	281	315
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS			
TRAVELMATE 4000, 4000E	195	281	315
TRAVELMATE 4000M	195	281	315
TRAVELMATE 5000, 5100, 5200	195	281	315
TRAVELMATE 6020 P120 6030 P133, 6050 P150	195	281	315
TRAVELMATE 7060, 7063NT P166MMX	195	281	315
EXTENSA 600, 600CD, 605CD P120	195	281	315
EXTENSA 650, 650CD, 650CDT P133	195	281	315
EXTENSA 900, 900T, 900CDT P133	195	281	315
NEC			
VERSA 2400;CD, 2405;CD	195	281	315
VERSA 2630CD,2635CD,2650CD,2650CDT,2655CD,2655CDT	195	281	315
SHARP			
PC7700.7750	195	281	315
WINBOOK			
WINBOOK "XP, FX, XP5	195	281	315

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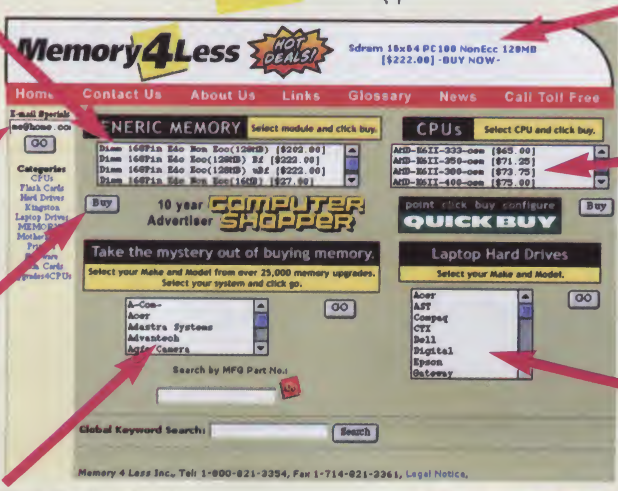

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Keep 'Out-of-Stock' Out of Site

BY RICH CASTAGNA

The three words an online shopper hates most are "out," "of," and "stock," in that order. But the word online vendors hate even more is "overstock." Either scenario is the kiss of death for an e-commerce site. Too little inventory, and customers will find what they need elsewhere; too much, and you deplete precious capital and warehouse space.

Finding the right balance between the two is a dilemma that's plagued retailers and manufacturers since consumers' hands held buggy whips instead of Palm devices.

Effective management means not getting caught with your inventory down.

INTEGRATED INVENTORIES

If you're coming from the physical B2B or B2C world, you already have an inventory system in place—or you should. The challenge is to integrate online and offline inventory into a single system. If your current inventory system can't handle online inventory management, switch to a system that can, to avoid dealing with manual updates. In most cases, you can integrate online and offline inventories; the methods range from nearly transparent operations to updates that require several steps.

Ideally, your offline inventory program should be compatible with your site's inventory tools. One of the best examples is Peachtree Complete Accounting *(www.peachtree.com)*, used in conjunction with PeachLink, Peachtree's Web-hosting and e-commerce site-building solution. With this pair of products, you can create an online catalog by selecting items from your Peachtree inventory, saving an enormous amount of time if you have hundreds or thousands of stock-keeping units (SKUs). It can also help you avoid inventory foul-ups resulting from mismatched product names or codes.

After you review the online orders PeachLink has captured, a single click sends them to Peachtree Accounting's database. From there, they're entered as sales orders and deducted from your inventory. Current sales information is, of course, available from PeachLink at any time.

It's a slick solution, but you have to use both PeachLink and Peachtree to take advantage of it, and switching both your accounting software and your e-commerce host can be a huge chore.

If you use Intuit's QuickBooks *(www.quickbooks.com)*, you'll just have to be patient. The company's Store Builder store-creation tool doesn't yet support automated inventory management. A company spokesman says it's coming, but wouldn't say when.

INVENTORY IMPORTS

If you're still shopping for a host, make sure it offers inventory-management features. At the very least, make sure that the product offers file downloads detailing order activity. Some services let you simply view activity reports. A quick peek at your inventory is okay if you're selling only one or two items per month, but it's no way for a thriving business to maintain accurate inventory.

Many hosts let you download sales-activity information, which you can then apply to your current order-entry system to update inventory. Merging this information with your accounting system is a simple matter of applying the updates, assuming your accounting system will import the downloaded file and the file doesn't require any tweaking first. That's a tall order, unless you've built your store at a site such as Freemerchant.com, which lets you download sales-activity files in IIF format for import into QuickBooks.

More likely, you'll have to massage the downloaded data to retrofit it to your existing inventory program. Ideally, you'll be able to map the download file's fields to those in your inventory system and save the mapping scheme so it automatically applies to future updates. If the import process is a little more complex than field mapping, your system may facilitate the process with a macro that lets you "can" the necessary file adjustments for later reuse.

Most accounting or inventory programs import files from other sources, but the degree of finesse with which they do so varies considerably. When selecting a host, make the compatibility level a key consideration. Check with your accounting- or inventory-software vendor to see if there are any preferred import formats, or if it recommends an auxiliary program to automate the import process.

A host is likely to support only a handful of file formats, so make sure you test them with your inventory program to determine which is the easiest to import. Verio LycosShop *(verio.lycos.com)*, for instance, provides an on-demand Downloadable Smart Statement in a tab-delimited format many programs can easily import. The site

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM COOK

also offers a number of third-party products that smooth the import process for other applications.

INVENT YOUR OWN SYSTEM

If you're new to commerce, e- or otherwise, you may not feel ready for a full-scale accounting program with inventory capabilities. If so, start by maintaining an inventory using a database or spreadsheet program.

A spreadsheet program makes it easy to add formulas for monitoring stock levels and sales, but you have a lot of SKUs, you may be better off with a database. It'll require more work to set up, but will offer more flexibility for ad hoc queries and reports.

Whichever you choose, make sure your host provides sales-report downloads in a compatible format. Excel and Access support most formats, but if you use another spreadsheet or database package you may have to import comma- or tab-delimited ASCII text files. Just make sure you resist the temptation to skip all these inventory-management alternatives in favor of whatever your host provides. Its tools may suffice for a small business, but once you get bigger, switching over to something more robust would be difficult.

While you're host hunting, pay attention to limits on the number of items you can have in your online catalog. Ideally, the limit should far exceed your current level. Many hosts let you up the number of items later for a higher monthly fee.

The information in your online catalog should mimic that of your offline inventory program. For instance, if you have a five-digit field for product number offline, set up a five-digit field online, and if you have fields for both color and size offline, include those fields online, as well. You may not be able to match entries field for field, but the closer the match, the easier it will be to reconcile online sales with your inventory program. At the very least, don't create online fields your inventory program can't accommodate. It'll mean a lot more work when you merge downloaded files into the program.

Also consider the frequency of inventory updates. Some hosts send them automatically at regular intervals, while others let you access the information on demand. The right choice depends on the type of product you sell and your sales volume. If your inventory turns quickly, you'll want the ability to download sales data frequently to ensure your shelves stay stocked.

A lot of work goes into a successful e-commerce business. You have to make your site attractive and easy to navigate, you have to get the word out to attract customers, and you must have the right products at the right prices. Once you nail all this, proper inventory management will keep you online and growing. ▼

Four Tips for Managing Online Inventory

- **Create an Inventory System.** If your current inventory system consists of Post-It notes, the backs of old envelopes, and the cuff of your sleeve, use your e-commerce host's order and inventory files to create a system you can maintain with an accounting, spreadsheet, or database application.
- **Use Reorder Levels.** Carefully monitor the sales activity for each item in your inventory and set reorder levels that ensure you'll have enough stock on hand while you wait for replacements.
- **Don't Just Say "Out of Stock."** If your online store automatically informs buyers an item is out of stock, see if you can add some more helpful information, such as when it will be available and how long a backorder takes.
- **Download Formats.** If several of your host's order-activity file formats are compatible with your inventory system, set up tests to try them all. One may prove more compatible and could make updating your master inventory easier.

Cover Your Assets

BY ART BRIEVA

Fending off hackers requires a mix of firewall technologies.

You can barely pick up a paper or turn on the TV or radio without hearing another company flogging DSL or cable-modem service as the small-business answer to fast, affordable Internet access. Large companies with T1 lines are well aware of the security issues associated with connecting their networks to the Internet, but many *small* businesses overlook this side of the equation. If you're considering one of these alternatives, you also need to consider some form of firewall protection. The degree of protection depends on the size of your business, your vulnerability to attack, and the potential losses associated with an attack.

If you have computers on a LAN and you access the Internet over a shared connection, be it dial-up, ISDN, dedicated line (T1 or fractional T1), DSL, or cable modem, you need a firewall. And if your ISP has provided you with only one or a few IP addresses for use on the Internet, a firewall will help you make the most of those you have.

WHAT MAKES A FIREWALL?

A firewall creates a boundary between a private network and not-so-private networks, such as the Internet. It inspects data passing through and either drops it or allows it to pass, based on configuration parameters the administrator sets. Most firewall products block all incoming data until the administrator programs it to allow certain types of data to pass. Internet mail, for instance, will likely need to pass through the firewall. Applications like e-mail use specific ports on transmission control protocol (TCP) and user datagram protocol (UDP).

The firewall hardware usually consists of a PC with two or more network interface cards (NICs), one connected to the private LAN, the other to the Internet. Depending on the firewall software, the PC could run Windows (2000, NT, or 9x), Linux, Unix, or a proprietary OS from the firewall provider. In packet-throughput tests, firewalls running under Unix usually outperform Windows-based firewalls. But often the bandwidth connection to the Internet is the limiting factor, not the operating system. Firewall vendors often support multiple operating systems, so administrators can select the platform they're most comfortable with.

The three major techniques for setting up a software firewall are packet filtering, proxy servers, and network address translation (NAT). Each has drawbacks, so they're often used in combination for the best protection. Understanding how they work will help you determine the right combination for you.

PACKET FILTERING

When the Internet was young, routers provided security. This process is still necessary and common with firewall products, but it has been improved upon. Routers inspect every packet and determine where to deliver it, based on the source, destination, and port addresses. A packet filter is software on the router that lets you control IP addresses, protocol types, TCP/UDP ports, and source routing information. An administrator uses the packet-filtering software to configure

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM COOK

what the router passes or drops, and the router inspects all packet headers that traverse it.

This granular control defines which devices users can access inside or outside the firewall from specific servers at a given TCP or UDP port. It's a simple form of packet filtering in which the router doesn't maintain connection states, earning it the term *stateless packet filtering*. Stateless packet filters don't maintain "call setup" information between client and server. For example, a client may request information at one TCP port, but the server needs to return data at a different TCP port. In this scenario, which is typical of FTP, all ports above 1,023 must be opened, so hackers can create Trojan horses to wait for packets entering at ports above 1,023.

Today, most firewalls implement a smarter form of packet filtering known as *stateful inspection*. It listens to all communications and stores these conversations in memory, so that responses are returned on expected ports from expected IP addresses. Ports are opened only if the firewall determines these packets are part of an internal originating request. If the packet matches a conversation stored in firewall memory, it passes through. When the conversation is completed, the port closes. If a packet is returned without the expected response, the packet is dropped.

Packet filtering is good security, but it can't go it alone. The source IP addresses within the private network still reside in each packet sent over the Internet, making it easy for a hacker to determine where to start looking for servers and hosts on a private network. Plus, packet filters work at the network layer of the International Standards Organization's Open Systems Interconnect (OSI) model and ignore higher application layers. (The OSI specification consists of seven layers or rules that engineers must follow when they design software or networking equipment.) Typically, the filters only inspect header information and ignore data within the packet, so a hacker could include a virus or malicious application within a packet.

PROXY SERVERS

Proxy servers, or proxies, take care of this problem by scanning packet contents. They also hide internal IP addresses, so you can translate hundreds of unregistered IP addresses into a single usable IP address over the Internet. The proxy-server approach lets you conserve registered IP addresses and makes it harder for hackers to find hosts on your private LAN. Proxies also empower administrators to deny access to certain Web sites.

Proxies are often called application proxies because they make application requests on behalf of the client. Even though a proxy server has two NICs, it doesn't route data between the two; it just duplicates a request for the client. When a client requests a Web page (or any other application the proxy server supports), the proxy regenerates the request. When the Web page returns, it goes to the proxy, which inspects it and passes it back to the client. This filtering process lets you prevent users from accessing unwanted Web sites and strips out unwanted data payloads such as viruses, ActiveX, or Java. Because the packet isn't routed between the NICs in a proxy, the internal IP addresses are well-guarded.

Proxies are application-specific and may not support the application protocols you need. If you want to use RealAudio, for instance, the proxy's software code must support RealAudio. For this reason, many proxies are built so that new *applications can be* added easily by updating the proxy software.

SOCKS servers, another form of proxy, support more applications because they regenerate and *transfer* the data for clients.

But because they don't inspect data, SOCKS servers offer a lower level of security.

A proxy server by itself is a prime target for hackers. It offers no packet-filtering protection, leaving the operating system vulnerable to attack. In addition, administrators often configure proxies incorrectly, or leave the default manufacturer settings, which aren't secure enough. For the best possible security infrastructure, use proxies in conjunction with another form of firewall protection.

NETWORK ADDRESS TRANSLATION

Unlike proxies, which inspect the applications inside a packet, NAT looks at the packet from the outside, offering security by disguising IP addresses on your LAN and converting them into one address on the firewall.

As good as NAT is, it's still not a complete solution. A host using a static translation can be hacked behind a NAT firewall. Static translations are used when a server behind a NAT firewall requires an Internet IP address. These include e-mail servers, which must be available on the Internet to receive mail. NAT doesn't completely secure a network until you begin inspecting the data within packets, using application proxies that look for malicious applications.

WHICH IS BEST FOR YOU?

Firewalls can be expensive, but you can find one for any budget. Before you go with the lowest-cost solution, remember: You get what you pay for. When shopping for a firewall, make sure you go over every feature. Some might use different terminology and claim to use better methods of protection, but they all use the three techniques discussed here.

If you're using cable-modem service, take extra precautions. This always-on connection gives hackers more time to work. At a minimum, advise users to turn off file and printer sharing within the operating system and make sure they turn off their computers when not in use.

NETWORKABLE

Small-office and home users should consider Deerfield.com's WinGate 3.0 ***(wingate.deerfield.com)*** or Sybergen SyGate ***(www.sybergen.com)***. Both provide proxy services and can hide internal IP addresses from the Internet. Small businesses should consider using Proxy Server, which ships with Microsoft Small Business Server, but not by itself. Proxy Server is susceptible to denial-of-service attacks and has no packet filtering. Using a packet-filtering router in front of it will make it more secure.

Larger companies need better security because their exposure is higher. Aside from having more servers and data to protect, they're a more tempting target for hackers, who like it when their attacks get media attention. These companies' firewalls have to protect the internal private network as well as the Web servers and mail servers that reside in a so-called demilitarized zone (DMZ). A DMZ is usually another interface off a firewall that's used to protect those Web servers you don't want on the private network. Check Point's FireWall-1 ***(www.checkpoint.com)*** is a good choice for larger companies. It takes a bit of networking know-how to configure, but it's extremely flexible and provides all three of the firewall components. Cisco's Secure Pix Firewall ***(www.cisco.com/warp/public/cc/cisco/mk/security/pix)*** is a firewall-in-a-box setup. Because it contains all the hardware running on Cisco's IOS, it's extremely fast, but also proprietary. Where it falls short is in content filtering. Although it has a Java filter, it lacks this additional application support. But if you're familiar with the Cisco IOS, it's easy to configure. Both FireWall-1 and Cisco Secure Pix FireWall also support virtual private networking, so users can dial in to the Internet and access hosts that reside on your private network.

Once you've installed your firewall, don't think it's all over. You can't rest easy, because hackers always find a way to get in. Install the best firewall your budget will buy. Nearly all firewalls have some way to monitor activity, so keep an eye on the event logs. Look for telltale signs of someone attempting to break in, such as source routes. Using source routes, hackers can intercept a packet intended for a particular destination and redirect it to another. If you see them in your logs, be suspicious. Make frequent trips to the firewall manufacturer's support site, join firewall mailing lists, and visit discussion boards. All can help you find the holes before someone else does, so you can apply the proper fix to close them. ▼

Fight Back

A determined hacker will always find a way in. Make it as difficult as possible.

Hackers are good at what they do because they spend a lot of time doing it. Breaking firewalls takes time. That's why always-on connections are the most vulnerable.

Hackers use common techniques and tools in steps aimed at eventually gaining entry or terminating services on a server. For example, a hacker may "sniff" your network to gather enough information about it to gain access. If that doesn't work, the hacker might cripple your network using denial-of-service (DoS) attacks, which could provide the hacker with more information to break in.

DENIAL OF SERVICE

A DoS disables or renders dysfunctional a server or services, and it comes in several varieties. Ping of death and SYN attacks/ICMP flooding cripple a network so its services are useless or the attacked server can no longer respond to requests. Direct service attacks cause an application, such as a Web or e-mail server, to crash because of a bug in the service. Some hackers use route redirection to gain access to a router or to hijack packets by modifying the destination within the packet. These attacks can be very harmful because the hacker controls where the packets are sent. The hacker can also spoof the packet so the network thinks it's being sent from inside the network. Also, reconfiguring devices using Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) can allow someone to manage a device, such as a router or server, and disable the services running on it.

The best way to protect yourself from these attacks is to keep your OS updated or use packet filtering to prohibit pinging to your protected computers. You should also inspect firewall logs frequently and look for an unusual amount of Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) and SYN-connection-attempt traffic.

NETWORK SNIFFING

Using readily available tools, a hacker can watch packets come in and out of your network and use this information to gain access. The hacker captures the packets and inspects them for passwords, network addresses, ports being used, and SNMP information. Armed with this information, the hacker has a place from which to start planning a way in. NAT and proxy servers help by disguising internal IP addresses.

MAN-IN-THE-MIDDLE

Hackers also wait for a computer to make a connection to a server, then intercept the connection and make the request to the server on behalf of the client. Using this approach, known as man-in-the-middle, the hacker is free to watch or record the conversation to gain access to information such as passwords, data, and server locations. The best way to fend off an advanced attack such as this is to use encryption to create secure communication links over TCP/IP. ▼

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LINUX FOR BUSINESS

Linux on The Client?

BY CHARLES BABCOCK

Don't toss your Windows apps yet, but desktop Linux is growing.

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SAVE MONEY. A switch to Linux—not just the OS, but also applications—might seem tempting, especially since server-based Linux is so hot. But though Linux application suites are available, they can't yet compete with Microsoft Office, even in technically savvy shops.

Linux is the fastest-growing server operating system, according to International Data Corp. But in 1998 it represented just 2 percent of client operating-system shipments, according to a recent report from Booze Allen & Hamilton, "Linux: Fad or Future." Even by 2003, the client side is projected to own no more than 5 percent.

Eventually, though, Linux could be a factor on the desktop, especially since it is proving to be the server system of choice for many Internet startups seeking to maximize their Web presence while minimizing expenses. This base of Linux installations and in-house expertise is likely to extend gradually to a few desktop users and, slowly, to a significant minority in some organizations.

Two new Linux distributors, book publisher Macmillan and application supplier Corel Corp., produce easy-to-install, end-user-oriented systems, an area overlooked originally by established distributors such as Red Hat and SuSE. Both Macmillan and Corel have advanced a version of Linux that is geared to be a "dual-boot" system, working alongside Windows on the same desktop, in what may be a necessary step to transition existing Windows users.

In addition, most of the major distributors are now making it easier to become a desktop user by including application sets on their distribution CDs. Both Red Hat and Macmillan include the StarOffice set of applications (including spreadsheet, word processor, and presentation graphics) in their professional end-user editions. The applications originated with Star Division in Germany and were purchased last year by Sun Microsystems, which gives them away to anyone who wishes to download them from its Web site ***(www.sun.com)***.

Corel includes its WordPerfect 8 with its distribution of Linux, and on April 1 launched its WordPerfect Office suite, with spreadsheet, WordPerfect 8, and presentation graphics. Both of these desktop Linux applications are cheaper than their Windows counterparts, with the operating system available for $30 to $50 and the applications either free, in the case of StarOffice, or priced at $109, for WordPerfect Office 2000.

But these applications are not yet a one-for-one replacement for Microsoft Office, and may never be. "A business today just can't make it on AmiPro or WordPerfect," says Dave Durkee, chief information officer of NetLedger ***(www.netledger.com)***, a start-up supplier of online accounting applications. "For day-to-day office management, they're not there yet."

His comment is ironic considering NetLedger is an Internet company whose core operations run on Linux. Asked whether he's tried to move Linux from the application and Web servers onto desktops, Durkee says he has, in scattered instances. Some members of the administrative and database groups run both Linux and Windows on their desktops because their job responsibilities entail operations on both.

In NetLedger's development organization, though, project teams prefer Windows NT or Windows 2000 machines because of the Microsoft development tools. With that part of the organization already using Windows, Durkee explains, it's much simpler to install Windows 2000 and Office for the rest of the company, too.

GUIs FOR LINUX

Still, the Linux graphical user interfaces are good, both the K Desktop Environment from the KDE open-source development team and the Gnu Object Model Environment from the Gnome project team. The latter is adopting the Common Object Request Broker Architecture from the Object Management Group, which claims it will one day seamlessly bridge the worlds of Windows and Unix, including Linux. But both retain some elements unfamiliar to the average Windows user, if only because of their generous options. It is standard procedure with each to configure not one desktop environment but four or more, grouping related applications together into distinct desktops.

But, says Durkee, the real problem with replacing Microsoft on desktops is the lack of business applications under Linux. A Corel spokesperson responded that the company's business applications *are* a suitable replacement for Microsoft's because they offer file compatibility with Microsoft Office. StarOffice and Applixware applications from Applix produce files mostly compatible with Windows, but only Corel boasts applications than can transfer to a Windows system with so much integrity that they're accepted as 100 percent compatible by the American Bar Association.

One wild card in the picture is the U.S. Justice Department's proposal to break up Microsoft into operating-system and application companies. If an Office application company is spun off from Microsoft, it could maximize its market by bringing out a version of the Office suite for Linux (a couple of years out).

For now, desktop Linux is possible, just not practical. ▼

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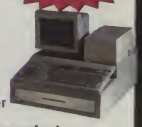

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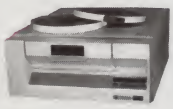

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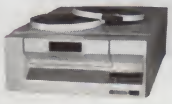

*Complete solutions for your data interchange and backup needs

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- Qualstar 9-Track
- M4 Data 9-Track
- Exabyte
- HP
- Qualstar
- Quantum/DLT
- DLT 2000/4000/7000
- Exabyte 8MM
- HP 4MM DAT
- Tandberg QIC

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- VIA Apollo KX133 chipset
- AMD Athlon 550MHz-1GHz
- 1 x AGP4X / 6 x PCI / 1 x ISA
- 4 x DIMM, up to 2GB, ATA/66
- ATX form factor, ca. 300x200mm
- SoftMenu II, hardware monitoring

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750MHz	$448
800MHz	$538
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900MHz	$848
950MHz	$1008
1000MHz	$1617

$159 AOpen

AOpen AK72
- VIA Apollo KX133 chipset
- AMD Athlon 550MHz-850+MHz
- 1 x AGP4X / 5 x PCI / 2 x ISA
- 3 x DIMM, up to 1.5GB, ATA/66
- ATX form factor, 305x244mm
- Hardware monitoring

Without CPU	$159
With AMD® K7™ Athlon Processor:	
650MHz	$358
700MHz	$388
750MHz	$458
800MHz	$548
850MHz	$678
900MHz	$858
950MHz	$1018
1000MHz	$1627

$159 ASUS

Asus K7V
- VIA Apollo KX133 chipset
- AMD Athlon 550MHz-1GHz
- 1 x AGP4X / 5 x PCI / 1 x AMR
- 3 x DIMM, up to 1.5GB, ATA/66
- ATX form factor, 305x245mm
- Hardware monitoring, AC97 sound

Without CPU	$159
With AMD® K7™ Athlon Processor:	
650MHz	$358
700MHz	$388
750MHz	$458
800MHz	$548
850MHz	$678
900MHz	$858
950MHz	$1018
1000MHz	$1627

$169 SOYO

SOYO K7-AIA
- AMD 751 "Irongate" chipset
- AMD Athlon 550MHz-750+MHz
- 1 x AGP2X / 5 x PCI / 2 x ISA
- 3 x DIMM, up to 768MB, ATA/66
- ATX form factor, 305x210mm
- Hardware monitoring

Without CPU	$169
With AMD® K7™ Athlon Processor:	
650MHz	$338
700MHz	$368
750MHz	$438
800MHz	$528
850MHz	$658
900MHz	$838
950MHz	$1028
1000MHz	$1637

$139 TYAN

TYAN TRINITYS2380
- VIA Apollo KX133 chipset
- AMD Athlon 550MHz-1GHz
- 1 x AGP4X / 6 x PCI / 1 x ISA
- 3 x DIMM, up to 768MB, ATA/66
- ATX form factor, 305x240mm
- Hardware monitoring, AC97 sound

Without CPU	$139
With AMD® K7™ Athlon Processor:	
650MHz	$338
700MHz	$368
750MHz	$438
800MHz	$528
850MHz	$658
900MHz	$838
950MHz	$998
1000MHz	$1607

SLOT 1 VIA CHIPSET MOTHERBOARDS

$109 abit

ABIT VT6X4
- VIA Apollo Pro133A/686A chipset
- Intel Pentium III 450-800+MHz
- 133 / 100 / 66 MHz FSB support
- 1 x AGP4X / 5 x PCI / 2 x ISA
- 3 x DIMM, up to 1.5GB, ATA/66
- ATX form factor, ca. 300x200mm
- SoftMenu II, hardware monitoring

Without CPU	$109
With Intel Pentium III Processor:	
500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$358
550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$418
600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$448
600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$438
667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$528
700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$658
733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$788
750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$779
800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$928

$109 ASUS

Asus P3V4X
- VIA Apollo Pro133A/596B chipset
- Intel Pentium III 450-800+MHz
- 133 / 100 / 66 MHz FSB support
- 1 x AGP4X / 6 x PCI / 1 x ISA
- 4 x DIMM, up to 2GB, ATA/66
- ATX form factor, 305x192mm
- Hardware monitoring, AC97

Without CPU	$109
With Intel Pentium III Processor:	
500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$358
550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$418
600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$448
600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$438
667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$528
700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$658
733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$788
750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$779
800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$928

$89 AOpen

AOpen MX 64
- VIA Apollo Pro133A/686A chipset
- Intel Pentium III 450-800+MHz
- 133 / 100 / 66 MHz FSB support
- 1 x AGP2X / 3 x PCI
- 3 x DIMM, up to 768MB, ATA/66
- microATX form factor, 244x220mm
- AC97 sound

Without CPU	$89
With Intel Pentium III Processor:	
500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$338
550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$398
600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$428
600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$418
667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$508
700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$638
733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$768
750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$778
800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$908

$89 FIC

FIC KA 31
- VIA Apollo Pro133A/686A chipset
- Intel Pentium III 450-800+MHz
- 133 / 100 / 66 MHz FSB support
- 1 x AGP4X / 3 x PCI / 1 x ISA
- 3 x DIMM, up to 768B, ATA/66
- microATX form factor, 244x226mm
- Hardware Monitoring

Without CPU	$89
With Intel Pentium III Processor:	
500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$338
550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$398
600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$428
600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$418
667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$508
700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$638
733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$768
750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$778
800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$908

$109 TYAN

Tyan Trinity 400 S1854S
- VIA Apollo Pro133A/596B chipset
- Intel Pentium III 450-800+MHz
- Intel Celeron 266-533MHz
- 133 / 100 / 66 MHz FSB support
- 1 x AGP4X / 6 x PCI / 1 x ISA
- 3 x DIMM, up to 768B, ATA/66
- ATX form factor, 305x220mm
- Supports both Slot1 and Socket370 CPUs

Without CPU	$109
With Intel Pentium III Processor	
500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$358
550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$418
600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$448
600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$438
667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$528
700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$658
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SLOT 1 - INTEL CHIPSET MOTHERBOARDS

$179 AOpen

AOpen AX 6C
- Intel i820 "Camino" chipset
- Intel Pentium III 450-800+MHz
- 133 / 100 MHz FSB support
- 1 x AGP4X / 5 x PCI / 1 x AMR
- 3 x RIMM, up to 2GB, ATA/66
- Supports RAMBUS PC800,700 & 800
- ATX form factor, 305x210mm
- Hardware monitoring, AC97 sound

Without CPU	$179
With Intel Pentium III Processor:	
500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$428
550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$488
600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$518
600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$508
667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$598
700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$728
733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$858
750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$868
800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$998

$149 AOpen

AOpen AX 6CL
- Intel i820 "Camino" chipset
- Intel Pentium III 450-800+MHz
- 133 / 100 MHz FSB support
- 1 x AGP4X / 5 x PCI / 1 x AMR
- 2 x RIMM, up to 1GB, ATA/66
- Supports RAMBUS PC800,700 & 800
- ATX form factor, 305x210mm
- Hardware monitoring, AC97 sound

Without CPU	$149
With Intel Pentium III Processor:	
500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$398
550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$458
600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$488
600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$478
667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$568
700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$698
733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$828
750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$838
800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$968

$169 ASUS

Asus P3C-E
- Intel i820 "Camino" chipset
- Intel Pentium III 450-800+MHz
- 133 / 100 MHz FSB support
- 1 x AGPPro 4X / 5 x PCI / 1 x ISA
- 2 x RIMM, up to 1GB, ATA/66
- Supports RAMBUS PC800,700 & 800
- ATX form factor, 305x241mm
- Yamaha 744 sound

Without CPU	$169
With Intel Pentium III Processor:	
500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$418
550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$478
600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$508
600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$498
667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$588
700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$718
733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$848
750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$888
800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$1018

$199 ASUS

Asus P3C-L
- Intel i820 "Camino" chipset
- Intel Pentium III 450-800+MHz
- 133 / 100 MHz FSB support
- 1 x AGPPro 4X / 5 x PCI / 1 x ISA
- 2 x RIMM, up to 1GB, ATA/66
- Supports RAMBUS PC800,700 & 800
- Intel 82559 10/100 Mbps LAN
- ATX form factor, 305x241mm
- Yamaha 744 sound

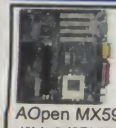
Without CPU	$199
With Intel Pentium III Processor:	
500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$448
550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$508
600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$538
600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$528
667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$618
700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$748
733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$878
750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$888
800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$1018

$569 TYAN

Tyan Thunder 2400 S2257
- Intel i840 Dual processor chipset
- Dual Intel Pentium III 450-800+MHz
- 133 / 100 MHz FSB support
- 1 x AGPPro 4X / 5 x PCI / 2 x 64-bit PCI
- 4 x DIMM, up to 2GB, ATA/66, U2SCSI
- Supports RAMBUS PC800,700 & 800
- Dual Channel Ultra2 LVD SCSI
- Intel 82559 10/100 Mbps LAN
- ATX form factor, 305x241mm
- Yamaha 744 sound

Without CPU	$569
With Intel Pentium III Processor:	
500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$818
550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2	$878
600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$908
600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$898
667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$988
700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$1118
733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$1248
750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2	$1258
800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2	$1388

SOCKET 7 MOTHERBOARDS



$89 AOpen

AOpen MX59 Pro II
- VIA Apollo MVP4 chipset
- Intel Pentium MMX 166-233MHz AMD K6, K6-2 & K6-III 166-533MHz
- 100, 97, 95, 66 MHz FSB support
- 4 x PCI / 1 x ISA
- 2 x DIMM, up to 512mB, ATA/66
- microATX form factor, ca. 244x220mm
- On-board Video, AC97 sound

Without CPU	$89
With Intel Pentium MMX Processor:	
P54C 233MHz	$139
With AMD K6-2 Processor:	
K6-2 500MHz	$159
K6-2 533MHz	$168
K6-2 550MHz	$178

$89 DFI

DFI K6 BV3+II
- VIA Apollo MVP3+ chipset
- Intel Pentium MMX 166-233MHz AMD K6, K6-2 & K6-III 166-550MHz
- 100, 95, 68 MHz FSB support
- 1 x AGP / 4 x PCI / 3 x ISA
- 3 x DIMM, up to 768mB, ATA/66
- BAT form factor, ca. 250x220mm
- Hardware monitoring, opt. ATX power

Without CPU	$89
With Intel Pentium MMX Processor:	
P54C 233MHz	$139
With AMD K6-2 Processor:	
K6-2 500MHz	$159
K6-2 550MHz	$178

$79 FIC

FIC VA503+
- VIA Apollo MVP3 chipset
- Intel Pentium MMX 166-233MHz AMD K6, K6-2 & K6-III 166-500MHz
- 100, 95, 66 MHz FSB support
- 1 x AGP / 3 x PCI / 3 x ISA
- 2 x DIMM, 4 x SIMM, up to 512MB
- BAT form factor, ca. 244x219mm
- Opt. ATX power

Without CPU	$79
With Intel Pentium MMX Processor:	
P54C 233MHz	$129
With AMD K6-2 Processor:	
K6-2 500MHz	$149
K6-2 550MHz	$168

$79 SOYO

Soyo SY5-EHM
- VIA Apollo MVP3 chipset
- Intel Pentium MMX 166-233MHz AMD K6, K6-2 & K6-III 166-500MHz
- 100 / 66 MHz FSB support
- 1 x AGP / 3 x PCI / 3 x ISA
- 2 x DIMM, 2 x SIMM, up to 512MB
- BAT form factor, ca. 244x219mm

Without CPU	$79
With Intel Pentium MMX Processor:	
P54C 233MHz	$129
With AMD K6-2 Processor:	
K6-2 500MHz	$149
K6-2 550MHz	$168

$89 TYAN

Tyan S1590
- VIA Apollo MVP3 chipset
- Intel Pentium MMX 166-233MHz AMD K6, K6-2 & K6-III 166-500MHz
- 100 / 66 MHz FSB support
- 1 x AGP / 4 x PCI / 4 x ISA
- 3 x DIMM, 2 x SIMM, up to 768MB
- BAT form factor, ca. 244x219mm

Without CPU	$89
With Intel Pentium MMX Processor:	
P54C 233MHz	$139
With AMD K6-2 Processor:	
K6-2 500MHz	$159
K6-2 550MHz	$178

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CMULTRA95E 19"(18.0" viewable), 0.22mm dot pitch, 1600x1200 max. res.	$319

Philips

PHL082981 15"(14.0" viewable), 0.28mm dot pitch, 1280x1024 maximum res.	$119
PHL264642 17"(15.0 viewable) , 0.27mm dot pitch, 1280 x 1024 res.	$189
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DIASTEALTH DIAMOND S3 Savage4 Pro chipset, 32MB SDRAM, 128-bit 2D, 3D graphics	$89
DIAS3540X DIAMOND S3 Savage4 Xtreme 128-bit 2D, 3D & video, 32MB SDRAM	$119
DIAVIPER2 DIAMOND 32MB video mem./framebuffer, AGP w/S3 Savage2000	$159
DIA215914 DIAMOND 32MB video mem./framebuffer, AGP w/S3 Savage2000™	$169

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AT089744 ATI Rage 128 Pro GL 128-bit Graphics Engine, 32 MB RAM	$149
AT194762 ATI All-In-Wonder 128, 128-bit 3D & 2D Graphics Acceleration, 32MB RAM	$229
AT199630	$229

GUILLEMOT

GUL138474 GULLEMOT 32MB , AGP 4X/2X, GEFORCE 256 NVIDIA Chipset	$259
GUL138480 GUILLEMOT 32MB, AGP 4x, GEFORCE 256 DDR Chipset	$299

CREATIVE LABS

BW007976 256-bit graphics architecture, 32MB high-performance DDRRAM	$279

ASUS

AGPV6800 32MB video memory/framebuffer, AGP video card with nVidia GeForce 256	$269
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CMY200617 PC100 compliant 64MB mem. module, SDRAM, 168-pin DIMM form factor	$69

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Antec

ANT451945 ANTEC Super Mini Tower in translucent blue color, ATX, 250W	$89
ANT451946 ANTECSuper Mini Tower in translucent red color, ATX, 250W	$89
ANT512863 ANTEC Super Mini Tower in translucent black color, ATX, 250W	$89
ANT47237ANTEC File Server Tower fits ATX style motherboard, 300W, 10 bays	$109

ENLIGHT

EN237 Mid Tower, fits Baby ATm ATX style motherboards, 250W, 7 expansion slots	$69
EN7200CB Desktop, fits ATX style motherboard, 250W, 6 expansion slots	$59
EN7200 Desktop, fits ATX style motherboard, 300W 6 expansion slots	

INWIN

INW135728 Full Tower, fits ATX style motherboards, 300W, 11 expansion slots	$99
INW135733 Mid Tower, fits AT style motherboards, 230W, 8 expansion slots	$49

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Quantum Hard Drives

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WD102AA WD 10.2 GB Ultra DMA/66 , 2MB Cache, 9.5ms access time,5400 rpm	$109
WD136AA WD 13.6GB Ultra DMA/66 , 2MB Cache, 9.5ms access time, 5400 rpm	$129
WD205AA WD 20.5GB Ultra DMA/66, 2MB Cache, 9.5ms access time, 5400 rpm	$149
WD307AA WD 30.7GB Ultra DMA/66 , 2MB Cache, 9.5ms access time, 5400 rpm	$209
WD102BA WD 10.2GB Ultra DMA/66 IDE, 2MB cache, 8.5ms access time, 7200 rpm	$129
WD153BA WD 15.3GB Ultra DMA/66 IDE, 2MB cache, 9ms access time, 7200 rpm	$139
WD205BA WD 20.5GB Ultra DMA/66 IDE Hard Drive, 2MB cache, 9ms access time, 7200 rpm	$179

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MITSUMI48X MITSUMI 48x Speed EIDE/ATAPI CD-ROM drive, internal	$49
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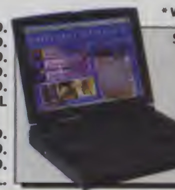

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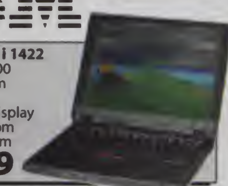

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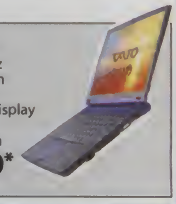

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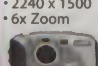

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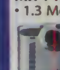

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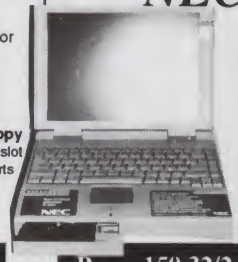

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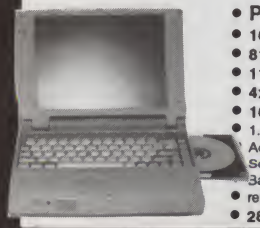

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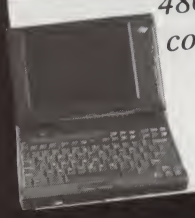
- refurbished
- 33.6k fax



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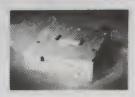
Int. (C4394A) (C4394AX)

Seagate



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SCSI-2 Kit **$295 Ext. Kit**
Int. (YCRW8424WOW) (YCRW8X4X24SX)

ULTRA ATA-66 HARD DRIVES

Seagate

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
4.3GB	5400rpm	256K	ST34313A	$81
8.4GB	5400rpm	512K	ST38410A	$95
10.2GB	5400rpm	512K	ST310212A	$102
13.0GB	5400rpm	512K	ST313021A	$115
15.3GB	5400rpm	512K	ST315323A	$125
15.3GB	7200rpm	2MB	ST315320A	$155
17.2GB	5400rpm	512K	ST317221A	$131
20.4GB	5400rpm	512K	ST320423A	$135
20.4GB	7200rpm	2MB	ST320420A	$175
30.6GB	7200rpm	2MB	ST330630A	$225

IBM

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
30.7GB	7200rpm	2MB	07N3929	$275
46.1GB	7200rpm	2MB	07N3931	$345
61.4GB	7200rpm	2MB	07N3933	$465
76.8GB	7200rpm	2MB	07N3935	$579

Maxtor

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
10.2GB	5400rpm	512K	M91021U2	$102
15.3GB	5400rpm	512K	M91531U3	$122
20.0GB	7200rpm	2MB	M52049U4	$166
20.4GB	5400rpm	512K	M92041U4	$135
30.0GB	7200rpm	2MB	M53073U6	$207
40.0GB	5400rpm	2MB	M94098U8	$239
40.0GB	7200rpm	2MB	M54098U8	$275
61.4GB	5400rpm	2MB	M96147U8	$375

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Quantum

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
5.1GB	5400rpm	512K	QML05100LA	$87
10.2GB	5400rpm	512K	QML10200LA	$108
10.2GB	7200rpm	2MB	QMP10200LM	$119
15.0GB	5400rpm	512K	QML15000LA	$126
15.0GB	7200rpm	2MB	QMP15000LM	$148
20.4GB	5400rpm	512K	QML20400LA	$142
20.5GB	7200rpm	2MB	QMP20500LM	$167
30.0GB	5400rpm	512K	QML30000LA	$211
30.0GB	7200rpm	2MB	QMP30000LM	$255

WESTERN DIGITAL

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
6.4GB	5400rpm	512K	WDAC64AA	$95
8.4GB	5400rpm	512K	WDAC84AA	$99
10.2GB	5400rpm	512K	WDAC102AA	$109
13.0GB	5400rpm	512K	WDAC136AA	$125
15.3GB	7200rpm	2MB	WDAC153BA	$147
20.5GB	5400rpm	2MB	WDAC205AA	$148
20.5GB	7200rpm	2MB	WDAC205BA	$177
30.0GB	5400rpm	512K	WDAC307AA	$215
40.5GB	5400rpm	512K	WDAC405AA	$287

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Cable Select Cable, no more changing Master/Slave switches!	(GSICSEL)	$12
Parallel Port External Case	(PPCASEHD)	$89
GSI External HotPort IDE Case, true IDE transfer rates	(HOTPORT)	$129
ULTRA ATA-66		
ATA-66 2 Drive 80 conductor cable	(CABLEATA66)	$9
ATA-66 PCI controller card	(ULTRA66)	$39
Promise Ultra ATA-66 RAID	(FASTTRAK66)	$95
ULTRA-2 SCSI		
External Active terminator	(ULTRA2TERMA)	$29
3' External Ultra-2 to Ultra-2 cable	(U2TOU2-3)	$25
ULTRA WIDE SCSI		
Tekram PCI Ultra Wide controller kit	(DC390F)	$79
3' External Ultra Wide to Ultra Wide cable	(SC3TOSC3-3)	$19
ULTRA 160 SCSI *Call for more.*		
Adaptec PCI Ultra 160 64 bit controller	(A29160)	$299
Adaptec PCI Ultra 160 64 bit dual channel	(A39160)	$359
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USB DRIVES & ACCESSORIES

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Seagate

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Ultra-2 SCSI **$469 Ext.**
(ST318436LW) Int. (ST318436LWX)

IBM

18.2 GB $365 UltraStar 18ES
Ultra-2 SCSI **$495 Ext.**
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ULTRA SCSI HARD DRIVES

Seagate

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.	Ext.
9.2GB	7200rpm	2MB	ST39216N	$233	$293
18.4GB	7200rpm	2MB	ST318416N	$339	$399

IBM

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.	Ext.
9.1GB	7200rpm	2MB	IBM309170N	$222	$282
18.2GB	7200rpm	2MB	IBM318350N	$315	$375

ULTRA WIDE SCSI HARD DRIVES

Seagate

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.	Ext.
9.2GB	7200rpm	2MB	ST39216W	$233	$323
18.4GB	7200rpm	2MB	ST318416W	$339	$429

IBM

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.	Ext.
9.1GB	7200rpm	2MB	IBM309170W	$222	$312
18.3GB	7200rpm	2MB	IBM318350W	$315	$405

SCA HARD DRIVES

Seagate

SCA & SCA 160 (Single Connector Attachment)

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
9.2GB	7200rpm	2MB	ST39236LC	$231
9.2GB	7200rpm	4MB	ST39236LCV	$246
9.2GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST39204LC	$341
18.2GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST318404LC	$507
18.4GB	7200rpm	2MB	ST318436LC	$339
18.4GB	7200rpm	4MB	ST318436LCV	$352
36.7GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST336704LC	$879
36.7GB	10,000rpm	16MB	ST336704LCV	$915
73.4GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST173404LC	$1559
73.4GB	10,000rpm	16MB	ST173404LCV	$1579

Quantum

SCA & SCA ULTRA-2 Single Connector Attachment

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
9.1GB	7200rpm	4MB	XC309100SCA	$233
9.1GB	10,000rpm	2MB	TN309100SCA	$333
18.3GB	7200rpm	4MB	XC318400SCA	$349
18.2GB	10,000rpm	2MB	TN318200SCA	$542
36.7GB	7200rpm	4MB	XC336400SCA	$719
36.4GB	10,000rpm	2MB	TN336400SCA	$935

ULTRA/160M SCSI HARD DRIVES

Quantum

Ultra 160 SCSI (up to 160MB/sec)

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.	Ext.
9.1GB	7200rpm	2MB	XC309100LW	$233	$363
9.1GB	10,000rpm	2MB	TN309100LW	$333	$463
18.2GB	7200rpm	2MB	XC318400LW	$349	$479
18.2GB	10,000rpm	2MB	TN318200LW	$545	$575
36.4GB	7200rpm	2MB	XC336400LW	$725	$855
36.4GB	10,000rpm	2MB	TN336400LW	$939	$1069

Seagate

Ultra 160 SCSI (up to 160MB/sec)

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.	Ext.
9.2GB	7200rpm	2MB	ST39236LW	$231	$361
9.2GB	7200rpm	4MB	ST39236LWV	$246	$376
9.2GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST39204LW	$341	$471
18.2GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST318404LW	$507	$637
18.4GB	7200rpm	2MB	ST318436LW	$339	$469
18.4GB	7200rpm	4MB	ST318436LWV	$352	$482
36.7GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST336704LW	$879	$1009
36.7GB	10,000rpm	16MB	ST336704LWV	$915	$1045
73.4GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST173404LW	$1559	$1689
73.4GB	10,000rpm	16MB	ST173404LWV	$1579	$1709

IBM

ULTRA 160/m (160MB/sec)

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.	Ext.
9.1GB	7200rpm	4MB	07N3120	$249	$379
9.1GB	10,000rpm	4MB	07N3220	$337	$467
18.2GB	7200rpm	4MB	07N3110	$365	$495
18.3GB	10,000rpm	4MB	07N3210	$499	$629
36.4GB	7200rpm	4MB	07N3100	$719	$849
36.9GB	10,000rpm	4MB	07N3200	$869	$999

FIBRE 160 HARD DRIVES

Seagate

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
9.2GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST39204FC	$345
18.2GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST318404FC	$509
36.7GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST336704FC	$885
73.4GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST173404FC	$1569

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12x	5 pack (CDR74-5)	$8
12x	20 pack (CDR74-20)	$27
12x	50 pack (CDR74-50)	$66
12x	100 pack (CDR74-100)	$125
12x	Platinum 5 pack (CDR74PA-5)	$9
12x	Platinum 20 pack (CDR74PA-20)	$29
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12x	Platinum 100 pack (CDR74PA-100)	$129

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4x	Budget 50 pack (CDR74WB-50)	$79
4x	Budget 100 pack (CDR74WB-100)	$159
4x	5 pack (CDR74W-5)	$22
4x	20 pack (CDR74W-20)	$69
4x	50 pack (CDR74W-50)	$179
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• Plextor 8x4x32 ReWritable •
Writes to CDR (write once) or CDRW media. Supports packet write, 4 MB buffer, tray loading.
IDE internal with software, 1 R & 1 RW disk [PXW8432R] $258

• Yamaha 8x4x24 ReWritable •
Writes to CDR (write once) or CDRW media. Supports packet write, 4 MB buffer, tray loading.
IDE internal [YCRW8424E] $209
IDE internal with software & 1 RW disk [YCRW8424EK] $229

• Sony 10x4x32 Rewritable •
Writes to CDR (write once) or CDRW media. Supports packet write, 4 MB buffer, tray loading.
IDE internal with software, 1 R & 1 RW disk [CRX145E] $279

• Teac 4x4x32 Rewritable •
Writes to CDR (write once) or CDRW media. Supports packet write, 2 MB buffer, tray loading.
IDE internal with software & 1 RW disk [CRW54EKIT] $199

• Creative 8x4x32 Rewritable •
Packet write, 2MB buffer, tray load.
IDE internal with software & 1 RW disk [SBCDRW8432] $239

• MicroSolutions Parallel Port CD-RW •
4x4x20 CD Rewritable [BACKPAC4X20] $289

• Acer 8x4x32 •
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Internal [PXR8020T]/External [PXR8020TX] $299/$389

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Packet write, 4MB buffer, tray load w/software & 1 disk.
Internal complete kit [CDR8X24TK] $269
External [CDR8X24TX] $359

SCSI CD REWRITABLE

• Plextor 8x2x20 ReWritable •
Packet write, 4MB buffer, tray loading.
SCSI Internal [PXW8220R] / SCSI Ext. [PXW8220BX] $325/$385

• Yamaha 8x4x24 ReWritable •
Packet write, 4MB buffer, tray loading.
SCSI Internal [YCRW8424S]/External [YCRW8424SX] $245/$295
Internal w/software & 1RW disk [YCRW8424WOW] $255

• Sony 8x4x32 ReWritable •
Packet write, tray loading.
SCSI Internal [CRX140S]/External [CRX140SX] $279/$329

• Hewlett Packard 8x4x32 ReWritable •
Packet write, 4MB buffer, tray loading.
SCSI Internal [C4457A]/External [C4457AX] $279/$339

• CenDyne 12x4x32 •
Packet write, 4MB buffer, tray loading.
SCSI Internal [CD1CD00028] / SCSI Ext. [CD1CD00028X] $339/$399

• Plextor 12x4x32 ReWritable •
Packet write, 4MB buffer, tray loading.
SCSI Internal [PXW12432B]/SCSI Ext. [PXW12432BX] $309/$369
Internal w/software & 1 disk [PXW12432I] $319
Retail Kit Internal, w/software & disk [PXW12432BX] $339

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	Drive Kit	Ext Drive	ISA Int Kit	ISA Ext Kit	PCI Int Kit	PCI Ext Kit
8x4x24 IDE CD ReWritable	$229	$329	$265	$329	$259	$n/a
8x Record, 4x ReWrite, 24x Read, Yamaha mechanism Packet write compatible, 4MB cache, tray load	#YAM8X4X24IN	#YAM8X4X24HP	#YAM8X4X24I	#YAM8X4X24HP	#YAM8X4X24IP	
8x4x32 IDE CD ReWritable	$239	$349	$279	$349	$269	$n/a
8x Record, 4x ReWrite, 32x Read, Ricoh mechanism Packet write compatible, 4MB cache, tray load	#RIC8X4X32IN	#RIC8X4X32HP	#RIC8X4X32I	#RIC8X4X32HP	#RIC8X4X32IP	
10x4x32 IDE CD ReWritable	$319	$439	$349	$439	$469	$n/a
10x Record, 4x ReWrite, 32x Read, HP mechanism Packet write compatible, 2MB cache, tray load	#HP10X4X32IN	#HP10X4X32HP	#HP10X4X32I	#HP10X4X32HP	#HP10X4X32IP	
8x2x20 SCSI CD ReWritable	$339	$389	$395	$439	$369	$419
8x Record, 2x ReWrite, 20x Read, Plextor mechanism Packet write compatible, 4MB cache, tray load	#PLE8X2X20SN	#PLE8X2X20EX	#PLE8X2X20S	#PLE8X2X20SX	#PLE8X2X20P	#PLE8X2X20PX
8x4x24 SCSI CD ReWritable	$259	$295	$299	$345	$279	$329
8x Record, 4x ReWrite, 24x Read, Yamaha mechanism Packet write compatible, 4MB cache, tray load	#YAM8X4X24SN	#YAM8X4X24EX	#YAM8X4X24S	#YAM8X4X24SX	#YAM8X4X24P	#YAM8X4X24PX
8x4x32 SCSI CD ReWritable	$289	$339	$349	$379	$329	$369
8x Record, 4x ReWrite, 32x Read, HP mechanism Packet write compatible, 4MB cache, tray load	#HP8X4X32SN	#HP8X4X32EX	#HP8X4X32S	#HP8X4X32SX	#HP8X4X32P	#HP8X4X32PX
10x4x32 SCSI CD ReWritable	$339	$399	$409	$439	$419	$459
10x Record, 4x ReWrite, 32x Read, Sony mechanism Packet write compatible, 4MB cache, tray load	#CR10X4X32SN	#CR10X4X32EX	#CR10X4X32S	#CR10X4X32SX	#CR10X4X32P	#CR10X4X32PX
12x4x32 SCSI CD ReWritable	$349	$379	$395	$439	$369	$419
12x Record, 4x ReWrite, 32x Read, Cendyne mechanism Packet write compatible, 4MB cache, tray load	#C12X4X32SN	#C12X4X32EX	#C12X4X32S	#C12X4X32SX	#C12X4X32P	#C12X4X32PX

Drive Kit - Includes drive, Mastering software for Win 95, 98 & NT, & 5 free 4x CDR-W disks (requires controller).
Ext Drive - Includes drive in our high quality external case, Mastering software for Win 95, 98 & NT & 5 free 4x CDR-W disks. (requires cable & terminator). (IDE External Drive only includes Hot Port case & ISA controller card).
ISA/PCI Int Kit - Includes drive, ISA or PCI controller, Mastering software for Win 95, 98 & NT & 5 free 4x CDR-W disks.
ISA/PCI Ext Kit - Includes drive in our high quality case, 3 foot SCSI cable, terminator, ISA or PCI controller, Mastering software for Win 95, 98 & NT & 5 free 4x CDR-W disks.
Units with Plextor or HP mechanism - Includes an additional 1 CDR and 1 CDRW disk.

CD ROM READERS

• SCSI DRIVES •

Brand	Model	Max Spin	Speed	Internal	External
Teac	CD532S	32X	85ms	$82	$172
Plextor	PX32TS(tray)	32X	85ms	$88	$178
Plextor	PX32CS(caddy)	32X	85ms	$140	$230
NEC	CDR3010	40X	75ms	$72	$162
Toshiba	XM6401B	40X	79ms	$82	$172
Plextor	PX40TS(tray)	40X	85ms	$98	$188
Kenwood	UCR415	52X	90ms	$149	$239

• WIDE SCSI DRIVES •

Plextor	PX40TSUW	40X	85ms	$99	$189

Pioneer SCSI 24x 6 Disk external CD Changer $395

• ATAPI DRIVES (IDE) •

Brand	Model	Max Spin	Speed	Internal	Int Kit
Teac	CD540E	40X	85ms	$49	$79
NEC	CDR3000	40X	75ms	$53	$83
Creative	SBCD52	52X	100ms	$49	$79
Mitsumi	CRMCFX48X	48X	65ms	$53	$83
Kenwood	UCR412	52X	90ms	$89	$119
Kenwood	UCR421	72X	100ms	$125	$155

Ext Case Parallel port [PPCASECD]/Ext [PCMCIACD] $79/$119
HotPort External IDE CD case [HOTPORT] $129
New Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live MP3+ [SBLIVEMP3+] $95
We've got Labtec Speakers, Microphones & Headset Deals! Call

• CD LABELER •

Complete CD labeling system. Includes Software with over 1200 predesigned backgrounds & clip art, 50 labels, label applicator, and 20 sets of jewel case inserts. Easy to use. With the included stand-alone software, making professional looking labels is easy. CD Stomper Pro software works with Win 3.1, 95, NT, & Mac.
Alone/With CDR drive purchase $25/$19

• CD MASTERING SOFTWARE •

Adaptec Easy-CD Creator $30 *w/drive purchase* Retail $90
Super easy to use. Supports Windows 95, 98 and Windows NT 3.51, & 4.x. Bundle version now supports Macintosh operating system. Win & Mac.
Apple Toast CD-ROM Pro Retail $89
The #1 mastering software for Macintosh. Supports Mac OS7 and later on Macintosh or compatible.
Creative Digital Research HyCD for UNIX Retail version $1559
HyCD Publisher works on SunOS , Solaris, and IRIX. It is used to develop Hybrid CD-ROMs integrating PC (ISO 9660 & Joliet), Macintosh (HFS), and UNIX (Rock Ridge) formats on a single CD-ROM. Note: Bundle versions may only be sold with a CD-R or CD-RW drive.

DVD DRIVES

COMPLETE KITS
Acer 10X Drive kit [DVP1040A] $139
MegaHaus 16X Drive kit [DVD16KIT] $249
Creative Encore 8X DVD Drive kit [CLDVD8KIT] $235

Bare	Interface	CD Speed	DVD Speed	Part #	Price
Pioneer	IDE	40X/80ms	10X,110ms	DVD104	$149
Pioneer	IDE	40X/80ms	16X, 110ms	DVD115	$175
Pioneer	SCSI	32X/90ms	4.8X,120ms	DVD303	$135

Hollywood MPEG-2 Decoder [HOLLYWOOD] $69
Waveless wireless transmitter allows you to transmit DVD movies from computer to TV [PCTOTV] $119 or $109 w/DVD drive.

CD MULTIDRIVE TOWERS

• CD ROM TOWERS •
For fast access to multiple CD's at one time.
Perfect for schools, networks, and more. Toll free support.
52X models now available!

4 DRIVE SCSI TOWERS
(Ask about our new UltraWides)

40X	79ms	Toshiba	$409
40X	85ms	Plextor	$449

7 DRIVE SCSI TOWERS
(Ask about our new UltraWides)

40X	79ms	Toshiba	$709
40X	85ms	Plextor	$789

Ethernet CD Towers - Built-in 10 baseT or 100 baseT Ethernet connection. Hooks directly to your network. Designed for mixed LAN environment - can be used simultaneously from Windows 95, NT, OS/2, DOS, and UNIX platforms using Novell Netware, Microsoft Networks, and NFS. Prices shown for 10base T, 10/100 also available. *CALL.*

Speed	Brand	Access	7 Drive	Item #	13 Drive	Item #
32X	Plextor	32X	$1239	#PLEX32X7N	$2139	#PLEX32X13T
40X	Toshiba	79ms	$1195	#TOS6401X7N	$2059	#TOS6401X13T
40X	Plextor	85ms	$1305	#PLEX40X7N	$2259	#PLEX40X13T
52X	Kenwood	52X	$1739	#KEN415X7N	$3049	#KEN415X13T

New! Auto Switching Ethernet CD Towers
Auto switches between 10 baseT or 100 base T Ethernet connection. Hooks directly to your network. Designed for mixed LAN environment - can be used simultaneously from Win 95, NT, Win for Workgroups, OS/2, HTTP, Mac, and UNIX. 40 drive speed, 8 drive tower. Item #MIT40X8N $1189

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ZIP & JAZ MEDIA

• IOMEGA 100MB ZIP •

Internal IDE [ZIP100A] / 10 Pack [ZIP100A-10]	$75/$699
External SCSI [ZIP100]	$99
Parallel External [PPZIP100]	$109
External USB [ZIP100USB]	$129
Zip media [ZIP100C] 2-9/10+	$12/10

• IOMEGA 2GB JAZ •

Internal SCSI [JAZ2I]	$309
External SCSI [JAZ2X]	$315
Jaz 1 GB media [JAZ1GIGPC] 2-5/5-9/10+	$80/77/75
Jaz 2 GB media [JAZ2GIGPC] 2-5/5-9/10+	$85/80/77

OPTICAL DRIVE

• SONY 5.2 GIG •

•4MB buffer. •Supports direct overwrite media.
Compatible with 5¼" 650MB, 1.3GB, & 2.6GB disks.

SCSI Drive Int. [SMOFS51] / Ext. [SMOFS51X]	$1389/1529
5.2GB media (SMAX5.2) 1-4/5-9/10+	$83/80/77

TAPE BACKUP

• SEAGATE 8GB TR4 •

4GB native and 8 GB compressed capacity. Backup rate up to 60MB/min. Includes DOS/Win backup software & 1 tape.

Internal IDE, with 1 tape [STT28000A]	$195
External IDE, with 1 tape [STT28000AX]	$325
Internal SCSI, with 1 tape [STT28000N]	$225
External SCSI, with 1 tape [STT28000NX]	$295

• HEWLETT PACKARD 10GB TR5 •

Includes backup software for Dos & Win. TR5 tapes $44

SCSI Internal TR5 [C4394A]	$389
SCSI External TR5 [C4394AX]	$479

• SEAGATE 10GB TR5 •

Internal SCSI NT/Netware software kit [STT22000N]	$459
External SCSI NT/Netware software kit [STT22000NX]	$549

SCSI TAPE DRIVES

• 4MM DAT DRIVES •

Cap. (Native/Comp.)		Max Speed	Brand & Model	
2GB	4GB	66MB/min	Seagate STD24000N	$419
4GB	8GB	66MB/min	Seagate DDS-2 STD28000N	$509
4GB	8GB	90MB/min	Sony SDT7000AI	$519
4GB	8GB	60MB/min	HP C1599AI	$529
12GB	24GB	144MB/min	Sony DDS-3 SDT9000AI	$679
12GB	24GB	120MB/min	HP DDS-3 C1554AI	$709
20GB	40GB	288MB/min	Sony DDS-4 SDT11000AI	$969
48GB	96GB	48MB/min	Seagate STL496000N	$2039
72GB	144GB	120MB/min	HP C5648A 6 tape loader	$1989
160GB	320GB	840MB/min	Sony TSL-S11000 tape loader	$2579
Media 1-4/5-9/10+			*120Meter (DAT120M)*	*$16/13/11*
Media 1-4/5-9/10+			*125 Meter (DAT125M)*	*$31/28/26*
Media 1-4/5-9/10+			*150 Meter (DAT150M)*	*$59/$57/$55*

• EXABYTE 8MM DAT DRIVES •

7GB	14GB	120MB/min	ELIANT820	$1159
20GB	40GB	360MB/min	EXB8900	$1999
140GB	280GB	180MB/min	EZ17SWK loader	$4399
Media 2-4/5-9/10+			*160Meter (DAT160M8MM)*	*$12/11/10*

• QUANTUM DLT DRIVES •

20GB	40GB	180MB/min	DLT4000	$1350
Above as ext. our case			DLT4000X	$1450
Above as ext. Qtm case			DLT4000QX	$1550
35GB	70GB	600MB/min	DLT7000	$3759
Above as ext. our case			DLT7000X	$3859
Above as ext. Qtm case			DLT7000QX	$3959
40GB	80GB	600MB/min	DLT8000	$3879
Above as ext. our case			DLT8000X	$3979
Above as ext. Qtm case			DLT8000QX	$4079
Media 2-4/5-9/10+			*DLT3(DLT3)*	*$36/34/32*
Media 2-4/5-9/10+			*DLT3XT(DLT3XT)*	*$39/36/34*
Media 2-4/5-9/10+			*DLT4(DLT4)*	*$69/$67/$65*
2-4/5-9/10+			*DLT Cleaning Tape(DLTCLEAN)*	*$40/39/36*

• AIT DRIVES •

Sony, Seagate call for price.

Compressed capacity is with maximum compression. Speed and amount of compression depends on your application. Autoloaders may require certain options to get advertised capacity.

Make your CDs look more professional with the Signature color CD printer. Prints on CD printable media. Compatible with Win 3.1, 95 NT, and MacOS, [CDPRINTER3] ONLY $1069

MAKE IT REMOVABLE

It's 2AM - DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR FILES ARE?

Your data is valuable to you. Keep it safe by keeping it with you. Key on your drive when you start in the morning, key off & take it home with you at night. This is the best data security measure on the market.

DATA-PORT V Removable Drive Brackets

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan, SCSI ID switch. Metal frame construction. Plastic cartridge with metal top and bottom covers. New IDE 66 is backward compatible with ATA-33 drives.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
IDE 66 with plastic cartridge (DP2200A66)	$85	n/a
IDE 66 with metal cartridge (DP2200AM66)	$95	$109
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DP2200UW)	$139	$159
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Plastic IDE 66 (DPACART66)	$42	n/a
Metal IDE 66 (DPACARTM66)	$62	$79
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWCART)	$69	$89
EXTRA FRAME		
IDE 66 (DPAFRAME66)	$52	
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWFRAME)	$79	

DATA-PORT VI Removable Drive Brackets

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan with audible fan failure alarm,
SCSI ID switch. Metal frame and cartridge construction.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
Ultra SCSI (DP2200SM)	$89	$129
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DP2200UWM)	$149	$169
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DP2200SCA)	$139	$159
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Ultra SCSI (DPSCARTM)	$59	$79
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWCARTM)	$89	$109
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DPSCACART)	$89	$109
EXTRA FRAME		
Ultra SCSI (DPSFRAMEL)	$59	
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWFRAMEA)	$69	
SCA (DPSCAFRAME)	$79	
ACCESSORIES for DataPort V and VI		
Cover plate (DPFPLATE)	$8	$10

Plastic Carying Case. Fully lined. (DPCASE) $25

Metal Carrying Case. Fully lined w/lock for extra security (DPCASEM) $35

Keep your data safe - in fact, this is the ultimate in data safety. When you want to lock up your data - lock up your whole drive! With DataPort - You CAN take it with you when you go.

BACKUP SOFTWARE

Veritas (formerly Seagate) Backup Exec

Windows 95 & 98 [SBEWDWD]	$69
WindowsNT Workstation [SBENTWD]	$69
Windows NT single server [SBENTSE]	$419
Windows NR multi server [SBENTME]	$879
Windows NT/2000 Exchange Server Agent [SBENTX006]	$495
Windows NT/2000 SQL Agt E/F/G/S/I [SBENTSQ0007]	$565
Windows NT/2000 Server En [SBENTSR0000]	$569
Small Business Server Suite [SBENTSB]	$429
Netware single server & unlimited users [SBENWSE]	$449
Netware multi server [SBENWME]	$829

NovaStor

NovaWorks CD contains backup software for DOS, Win 3.1, Windows 95, Win NT, Macintosh, and OS/2

Compatible with SCSI, IDE, and QIC drives [NOVACD]	$55
NT SE for Windows NT/2000 [79210]	$299
NT single server for NT/2000 [79230]	$415
NT unlimited servers and unlimited users [79250]	$715
NovaBackup for Windows NT/2000	
Server [29801]	$125
Workstation [29821]	$59
NovaNet 8 for NetWare	
SE [79310] / Single Server for NetWare 25 User [79320]	$319/$339
Single Server for NetWare 1000 User [79330]	$419
Unlimited for NetWare 25 User [79340]	$589
Unlimited for NetWare 1000 User [79350]	$689

2.5" LAPTOP DRIVES

TOSHIBA				
4.3GB	4200rpm	8.45mm	MK4313MAT	$133
6.0GB	4200rpm	9.5mm	MK6014MAP	$147
12.1GB	4200rpm	9.5mm	MK1214GAP	$239
18.1GB	4200rpm	12.5mm	MK1814GAV	$365
IBM				
6.0GB	4200rpm	9.5mm	DA206000	$177
12.0GB	4200rpm	9.5mm	DA212000	$252
18.1GB	4200rpm	12.5mm	DA218000	$373
25.3GB	5411rpm	17mm	DA225000	$529
HITACHI				
6.0GB	4200rpm	9.5mm	DK32AA-60	$144
12.0GB	4200rpm	12.7mm	DK23AA-12	$211

2.5" Accessories

Diskmanager Software for larger drives on older systems [DISKMANAGER]	$12
Parallel case for 2.5" drives [PPCASE2.5]	$69
PCMCIA case for 2.5" drives [PCMCIA2.5]	$119
2.5" TO 3.5" adapter kit [IDEKIT-2.5]	$15

2.5" drive caddies:For IBM, Toshiba, NEC, Compaq and More. Just $49 each!

EXTERNAL LAPTOP DRIVES

MicroSolutions

Microsolutions offers a complete line of plug and play external drives. These drives easily interface with your computer's parallel printer port. They also have a pass through connector so you can use your printer at the same time.

32X CD-ROM	#BACKPAC32X	$165
32X CD-ROM w/sound	#BACKPAC32XS	$195
6GB Hard Drive	#BACKPACK6G	$259
8GB Hard Drive	#BACKPACK8G	$295
4x4x20 CD Rewritable	#BACKPAC4X20	$285

Big Ultra Drives to Store Ultra Big Files

Quantum	36.4 Gig	Ultra 160/m SCSI (XC336400LW)	$725
IBM	76.8 Gig	Ultra ATA/66 IDE (07N3935)	$579
Quantum	30.0 Gig	Ultra ATA/66 IDE (QMP30000LM)	$255
Maxtor	61.4 Gig	Ultra ATA IDE (M946147U8)	$375
Seagate	73.4 Gig	Ultra 160/m SCSI (ST173404LW)	$1559
Seagate	73.4 Gig	Ultra 160/m SCSI (ST173404LWV)	$1579

NEW! 1394 PRODUCTS

The new 1394 interface is a high performance technology that can support up to 63 devices with current data transfer speeds up to 400Mbits per second. This hot new technology is also known as Firewire and i.Link.

1394 PCMCIA CardBus — Hot plug connect multimedia peripherals to your computer without restarting. Dual connectors support 1394 peripherals such as disk drives, scanners, printers and digital cameras. #70HTL00040 **$129**

1394 USB/PCI Board — 2 1394 & 2 USB external ports for plug & play peripherals. USB/PCI Board #70HTL00060 **$149**

1394 PCI/Mac Board Kit — Edit video from your PC or your Macintosh #70HTL13941 **$125**

1394 Hub — Disconnect 1394 peripherals without disturbing other peripherals in a traditional daisy chain. Provides 5 additional 1394 ports from a single power supply. #70HTL00030 **$85**

1394 Repeater and Cables — Connect one repeater to another using 15 foot cables. Reach up to 236 feet total length from the original 1394 host system.

Repeater: #70HTL00020	$45
15 Ft. Cable: 6pin to 4pin #70CAB13943	$28
15 Ft. Cable: 6pin to 6pin #70CAB13942	$30

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IBM

THINKPAD i-1421
FREE CASE — New
Celeron® 466 Processor
13" HPA Color Display, 32 Mb Ram/6Gb HD, 24X CD Rom, 56k Modem
$1199.99

THINKPAD i-1441
Celeron® 466 Processor
12.1" Active Color Display, 64 Mb Ram/6 Gb HD, DVD Rom, 56k Modem
$1599.99 — New

THINKPAD A20's
FREE CASE — New
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Celeron® 500 Processor
12" HPA Color Display, 64 Mb Ram/6Gb HD, 24X CD Rom, 56k Modem
$1499.99

Model	Processor	Display	Ram/HD/CD/Mod	Price
A20-21U	Pentium® III 500	12.1 TFT	64/6/24X/56k	1899.99
A20-24U	Pentium® III 500	12.1 TFT	64/6/24X/56k NIC	1999.99
A20-31U	Celeron® 500	15 TFT	64/12/24X/56k	2199.99
A20-41U	Pentium® III 650	14.1 TFT	64/12/24X/56k	2699.99
A20-61U	Pentium® III 700	15 TFT	128/18/DVD/56k	CALL

THINKPAD T-20
Pentium® III 650 Mhz Processor
13.3" Active Color Display, 128 Mb Ram/6 Gb HD, 24X CD Rom, 56k Modem
ONLY 4.6 LBS
$2899.99

THINKPAD T20's

T20-24U	Pentium® III 650	13.3 TFT	128/6/24X/56k/NIC	2999.99
T20-64U	Pentium® III 650	13.3 TFT	128/6/24X/56k/W2K	3099.99
T20-42U	Pentium® III 700	14.1 TFT	128/12/DVD/56k	3799.99
T20-82U	Pentium® III 700	14.1 TFT	128/12/DVD/56k/W2K	3899.99
T20-44U	Pentium® III 700	14.1 TFT	128/12/DVD/56k/NIC	3999.99

FUJITSU

LIFEBOOK C-4235
New
K6-2® 450 Mhz Processor
12.1" Active Color Display, 64 Mb Ram/6.4 Gb HD, 24X CD, 56k Modem
$1299.99

LIFEBOOK SERIES

Model	Processor	Display	Ram/HD/CD/Mod	Price
C5235	K6-2® 450 Mhz	13.3 TFT	64/6/DVD/56k	1599.99
C6177	Celeron® 500	14.1 TFT	64/6/DVD/56k	1899.99
C6330	Pentium® II 400	14.1 TFT	64/10/DVD/56k	1899.99
C6525	Pentium® III 450	14.1 TFT	64/9/6XDVD/56k	2199.99
C6535	Pentium® III 500	14.1 TFT	128/12/6XDVD/56k	CALL
C6537	Pentium® III 500	14.1 TFT	64/9/6XDVD/56k	2399.99
C6557	Pentium® III 650	14.1 TFT	128/12/6XDVD/56k	2999.99

LIFEBOOK E-6550
Pentium® III 650 Mhz Processor
14.1" Active Color Display, 128 Mb Ram/12Gb HD, 6X DVD Rom, 56k Modem.
CALL

E5140	Celeron® 433	13.3 TFT	64/6.4/24X/56k	1499.99
E5320	Pentium II® 366	13.3 TFT	64/10/24X/56k	1799.99
E5520	Pentium III® 450	13.3 TFT	64/10/24X/56k	2199.99
E6530	Pentium III® 500	14.1 TFT	128/10/DVD/56k	2899.99

ACER

TRAVELMATE 507DX
FREE CASE — New
Celeron® 466 Mhz Processor
12.1" Dual Scan Color Display, 32 Mb Ram/4.8 Gb HD, 24X CD Rom, 56k Modem
$1099.99

TRAVELMATE

Model	Processor	Display	Ram/HD/CD/Mod	Price
507T	Celeron® 466	12.1 TFT	64/4.8/24X/56k	1299.99
514TVX	Celeron® 466	14.1 TFT	64/6/DVD/56k	1799.99
600TER	Pentium® III 600	13.3 TFT	64/12/CD-RW/56k	2499.99
602TER	Pentium® III 650	13.3 TFT	128/12/CD-RW/56k	2799.99
732TXV	Pentium® III 500	14.1 TFT	64/9/DVD/56k	2299.99
734TXV	Pentium® III 600	14.1 TFT	64/9/DVD/56k	2499.99
735TVL	Pentium® III 650	15 TFT	128/12/DVD/56k	CALL

TRAVELMATE 340T
Pentium® III 450 Processor
12.1" Active Color Display, 64 Mb Ram/6.4 Gb HD, 56k Mod. Ext. 24X CD Rom & 3.5" Floppy
ONLY 4.1 LBS
$1799.99

342T	Pentium® III 500	12.1 TFT	64/9/24X/56k	2299.99
341TV	Pentium® III 500	12.1 TFT	64/6/DVD/56k	1999.99
343TV	Pentium® III 500	12.1 TFT	128/12/DVD/56k	2499.99

THINKPAD 390's

Model	Processor	Display	Ram/HD/CD/Mod	Price
390X	Celeron® 400	12.1 TFT	64/6/24X/56k	1299.99
390X	Pentium® II 400	14.1 TFT	64/6.4/24X/56k	1999.99
390X	Pentium® II 400	15 TFT	64/6.4/24X/56k	2099.99
390X	Pentium® III 450	14.1 TFT	64/12/24X/56k	1999.99
390X	Pentium® III 500	15 TFT	64/12/24X/56k	CALL

THINKPAD 600X
Pentium® III 450 Mhz Processor
13.3" Active Color Display, 64 Mb Ram/6.4Gb HD, 24X CD Rom, 56k Mod.
$2399.99

600E	Pentium® II 400	13.3 TFT	64/10/DVD/56k	2199.99
600X	Pentium® III 500	13.3 TFT	64/12/24X/56k	2799.99
600X	Pentium® III 500	13.3 TFT	64/12/DVD/56k	2999.99
600X	Pentium® III 650	13.3 TFT	64/12/24X/56k	3299.99
600X	Pentium® III 650	13.3 TFT	64/12/DVD/56k	CALL

THINKPAD i SERIES

Model	Processor	Display	Ram/HD/CD/Mod	Price
1422	Celeron® 500	13 HPA	32/6/24X/56k	1299.99
1442	Celeron® 500	12.1 TFT	64/6/DVD/56k	1699.99
1483	Pentium® III 500	14.1 TFT	64/12/24X/56k	2199.99
1492	Pentium® III 500	15 TFT	64/12/DVD/56k	2499.99
1542	Celeron® 500	12.1 TFT	64/12/24X/56k	1799.99
1562	Pentium® III 500	14.1 TFT	64/12/24X/56k	2299.99
1592	Pentium® III 500	15 TFT	64/12/24X/56k	2499.99

THINKPAD i-1482
Celeron® 500 Mhz Processor
14.1" Active Color Display, 64 Mb Ram/12Gb HD, DVD Rom, 56k Mod.
$1999.99

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20.4GB	7200rpm	52049U4	$172
30.7GB	5400rpm	93073U6	$195
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18.2GB	7200rpm	25L1900	2mb	$342
18.2GB	7200rpm	07N3110	4mb	$369
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18.4GB	7200rpm	ST318416N	2mb	$350
18.4GB	7200rpm	ST318436LW	2mb	$350
18.4GB	7200rpm	ST318436LWV	4mb	$367
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ALICE & BILL

The Hard Edge

BY ALICE HILL AND BILL O'BRIEN

E-commerce cools off; Microsoft heats up; and Toshiba does DVD right.

IF YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER THE LYRICS TO "SPINNING WHEEL," try humming a few bars of "What goes up, must come down" as you read the next few paragraphs. Even without a soundtrack, the current state of e-tailing is a dizzying tale of greed, insanity, and one wild ride on the NASDAQ. For those not following the carnage closely, here's what happened in one tightly written, run-on megasentence:

It doesn't take a Wall Street analyst to understand what happens when a bunch of people rush to California, whip out business plans that read like creative fiction, then, flush with venture capital, squander millions on ridiculous TV ads and go-nowhere marketing schemes, only to finish off with a whirlwind IPO that jumps up crazily one day and falls to earth months later when investors realize they're holding stock about as valuable as the diamond-mine and Florida swampland holdings of yesteryear.

Bill, of course, has maintained his paper-based heritage and likes to smugly say "I told you so," but Alice has been living the dot-com life for close to six years now. (Or back before there was a dot, she likes to say.) People forget the other, potentially more horrible shakeout back in 1996. For those pondering a trip to California to strike it rich, or those who have been frightened away from the new economy, Alice proudly presents two key lessons learned from the dot-com shakeouts of '96 and '00.

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN BLECK

1. Ninety percent of all startups fail.

It doesn't matter that you like the CDnow ads or enjoy Pets.com's little sock-puppet dog—the world has a way of winnowing out a flawed business model. Will these two make it? Time will tell, but right now they are bleeding red ink. Back in 1996, "content was king," and a lot of companies threw their content hats in the ring, only to wind up down the drain less than a year later. Why? Because plain content wasn't king on the Web, and all those words and beautifully crafted articles didn't mean much in the new online framework. The survivors? Content companies that added value to their content—like reading a review, then being able to price the machine you want from dozens of different e-tailers.

2. E-commerce isn't king.

Following the content boom and bust, e-commerce was the next hot thing, and as in 1996, hundreds of little companies formed and grabbed handfuls of waiting cash. The lesson this time: If you can't figure out how to retain your customer and keep acquisition costs low, you aren't going to make it on sock puppets for long. The bet-now-and-explain-later approach ended in April 2000, and the name of the game once again is profitability.

So what hope is there for future Webheads dying to make their mark? Think value-add, not me-too. The Web is a work in progress, and that means someone will come up with the next Amazon.com, the next eBay, and all sort of things that haven't even been thought of yet. The dying wave of e-commerce companies is just "thinning the herd," in stark Darwinian terms, and as Martha Stewart herself would say as she manages to stay afloat in these troubled waters, that is a good thing.

SHORT TAKES

- Culled from the MSNBC (that's the Microsoft side of NBC news) story list: "Is the government prepared to protect your child from cyber stalkers?" What happened to, "Are *you* prepared to protect your child from cyber stalkers?" At what point did parents abdicate their responsibility to the government? And if they did, why aren't the folks at MSNBC asking more important questions, such as, "Is the government prepared to pay for your child's Ivy League education?" Now *that's* something we'd like to hear about.
- In speaking about his company's troubles with eBay, Dan Neary, AuctionWatch.com's vice president of marketing, said, "This is not so much about being anticompetitive as anticonsumer. It's about the Internet, and has implications for e-commerce overall. The Internet is about freedom of information—to go out, search, and find information." Anybody agree with that last sentence? If you do, just how much information about yourself are you prepared to have disclosed? There doesn't seem to be a limiter included.
- Next year, accident reports in Pennsylvania will include a checkbox to indicate whether a cell phone was in use at the time of the accident. Wonder if it will also include checkboxes for a Palm VII or a Palm V with an OmniSky wireless modem? How about CBs and amateur radios? Cell-phone users aren't the only ratchet-jaws on the fossil-fuel highway.
- If you missed the hard-copy version (that's paper and ink for you onliners) of the April issue, you missed a milestone in publishing: an actual picture of Bill. What makes it a milestone? Bill's picture has never

appeared in print (except in certain post offices). And it wasn't at the top of "The Hard Edge." Do you know where it was?

■ Cisco Systems. If we need to say more than that, you're hopelessly out of touch and nothing we say will help.

OVER, BUT NOT DONE WITH

We've been delaying and delaying in hopes of discussing the DOJ's final decision on Microsoft, but that wily DOJ kept delaying as well. When we finally reached the point where our long-suffering editor, Nancy Lang, actually threatened to speak in a harsh voice if we didn't hand in the column, the DOJ spoke: Microsoft is a monopoly and should be split in two. The monopoly in question was set to ask for an extension beyond the May 10 deadline to detail its opposition to the plan, so when you factor in all the extensions and appeals, the case could drag on for years. In the meantime, we're happy to offer our own pithy comments about the situation.

If the DOJ does follow through with its proposal to break up Microsoft, it will be the dumbest thing it's done, and it's done some pretty dumb things. It's a disaster in the making for those of us who are enslaved, either under duress or willingly, by our computers. Sure, it's a nice thing for developers and Microsoft competitors, but the folks who just use their computers to eke out a meager existence are destined to long hours of extreme frustration as they face wave after wave of incompatible software.

In our opinion, Microsoft has certainly been a monopoly. When you create software for your own operating system, if you don't end up as a monopoly you started out as an idiot. At issue is whether it *stayed* a monopoly through hard work and diligence or through intimidation and back-room deals. Even if the DOJ decides it's the latter, it will take a good understanding of the industry for it to apply an appropriate decision. (It's a lot like Alan Greenspan raising the prime rate to discourage stock speculation. It hasn't done a thing to suppress the market, but everyone with a mortgage or credit-card interest rate that floats with the prime is getting a pasting. Where do they get these guys?)

Bottom line: Don't draw and quarter the schoolyard bully. It may give you a great deal of immediate satisfaction—at least until they lock you in a 6x8 concrete cell with "Bubba"—but it doesn't solve the problem. There's always another bully waiting in the wings. Instead, you make an example of him. You give him a good, hard public spanking and promise worse if he does it again. Corporate corporal punishment.

That's not PC? Well, the problem with being politically correct with punishment is it removes the median and leaves you with the extremes. In Microsoft's case, it's created a consistent, if not necessarily stable, development environment over the years and, no matter what you think of the company, it would be a terrible thing to start breaking up that foundation.

One thing we would like explained, however. The government wasn't satisfied with Microsoft's sudden willingness to disentangle Internet Exploder from Windows. If Microsoft can now suddenly make IE a separate application, why did it claim it was integral to Windows and therefore couldn't be done when this whole mess started? (All right, we all already know the answer. Besides, any attempt at answering it now would provide near-endless hours of mirth and chuckles. But it's a good question to ask anyway.)

When you create software for your own operating system, if you don't end up as a monopoly you started out as an idiot.

By the way, anyone else as utterly put off by the Bill Gates "ain't seen nothing yet" TV commercials as we are? Slick, pointless talk. Still, we're betting some of you are eating it up.

MONDO COOL

What do you do if you have a DVD drive and want to add a CD-RW drive? You could just go out and buy one. You could do 100 days of research to find out which CD-RW drives are compatible with your DVD drive. Or you could sell the DVD drive and install a DVD/CD-RW drive. Seems like the thing to do. Ricoh has had one for a few months, and Toshiba has introduced its SD-R1002.

Of course, if you're Bill and you have a Toshiba SD-M1212 DVD drive, you recognize it's a really good device, and rather than part with it, you try shoehorning it into an NT system with a digital flat-panel display. But that's another story. Plugging the hole the SD-M1212 left in the 700MHz Athlon system's tower case was the task he assigned the SD-R1002. Toshiba for Toshiba. Seems like a fair swap.

The SD-R1002 has Cyberlink's PowerDVD, which features a capture button on the onscreen DVD player—something the system's original Mediamatics DVD software didn't have. Toshiba throws in blank CD-R and CD-RW discs, data and audio cables, and a DVD sampler disc. The drive lists for $320, which isn't bad.

The SD-R1002 is a bit slower at CD stuff than the SD-M1212, according to our CD benchmarks, but not so much so that you'd notice it with almost anything you do. We've come to expect things like that with multifunction devices. It's the "jack of all trades, master of none" theory of electronics. But that's not a bad thing. It's worth a look, so if you're out in cyberspace, you can get one at ***www.sdd.toshiba.com.***

PHASERS ON "STUN"

The HP 4500 color printer has appeared; the Xerox Phaser 850 solid-ink printer has not. That makes the toner-vs.-solid ink comparo a little difficult. Worse still, Bill has spent so much time trying to track down the Phaser 850 that he wasn't able to install the MSI motherboard. These things now need to wait until next month. Please pardon our appearance while we rearrange our windows of opportunity.

DON'T WALK ON BY

Now that you know what we think of the Microsoft/DOJ debacle, how about piping in with your own sentiments? Carry on all you want—just don't sing the praises of OS/2 or Linux or some other sock-puppet OS you may be infatuated with. And start thinking now about what you'll be sending us for our anniversary. That's right, next month is August.

Drop Alice and Bill a line at their mailbag digs, and make them laugh and cry. Hint: E-mail is faster and better—go digital! ▼

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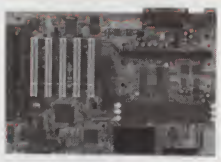

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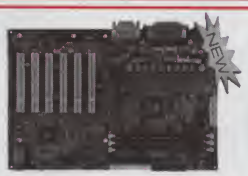

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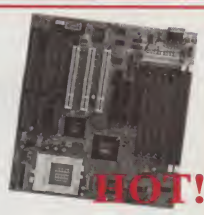

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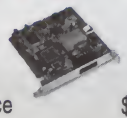

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3696	439
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85	269
50	318
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5100	118*
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660	69*	760	115*
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670	88	870	277
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FX 1180	388
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LQ 2180	525
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8W*	188
10 E	277
10 EX	369
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EX 1300	699
PR 1400F	888

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VL 700	188
PR 705F	269
PR 711 F	288
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AGX 740	288
EO 2010	688
EO 2000	818

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M 50	177
E 855	169
L 700	838
E 771	199
E 773	266
G 773	244
M 70	265
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- Optional: Large Capacity Sheet Feed Unit, PostScript L2
- 1 Year Warranty

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500W	N/A	N/A	230
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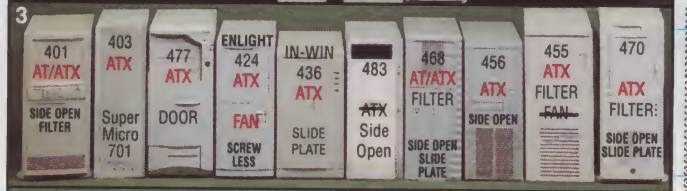
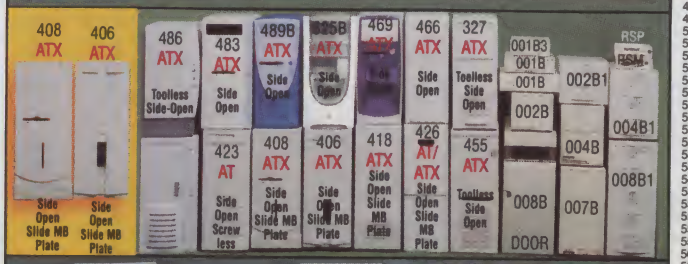
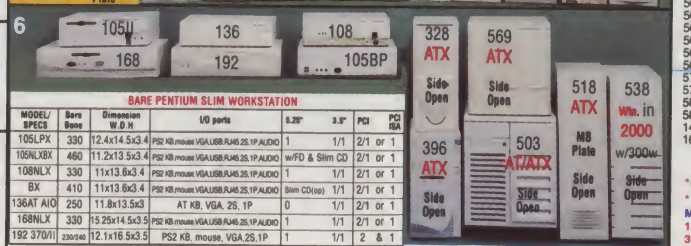






BARE PENTIUM SLIM WORKSTATION

MODEL/ SPEC$	Bare Bone	Dimension W.D.H	I/O ports	5.25"	3.5"	PCI	PCI ISA
105LPX	330	12.4x14.5x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO	1	1/1	2/1 or 1	
105NLXBX	460	11.2x13.5x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO	w/FD & Slim CD		2/1 or 1	
108NLX	330	11x13.6x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO	1	1/1	2/1 or 1	
BX	410	11x13.6x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO	Slim CD(op)	1/1	2/1 or 1	
136AT AIO	250	11.8x13.5x3	AT KB, VGA, 2S, 1P	0	1/1	2/1 or 1	
168NLX	330	15.25x14.5x3.5	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO	1	1/1	2/1 or 1	
192 370/II	230/240	12.1x16.5x3.5	PS2 KB, mouse, VGA,2S,1P	1	1/1	2 & 1	

169/370 255 12.5x14.3x3.4 PS2 KB, MOUSE, NET,VGA,3S,1P 1/0 1/1 2&1
182LPX 260 13.75X15.2X2.9 KB,MOUSE,NET,VGA,2S,1P 0/0 2/0 0&2

MB SIZE = MOTHERBOARD SIZE • F= FULL SIZE • B= BABY SIZE • X=ATX • M. ATX=Micro ATX R= REDUNDANT POWER SUPPLY WITH HARDSWAP • 250XB=Ball Bearing

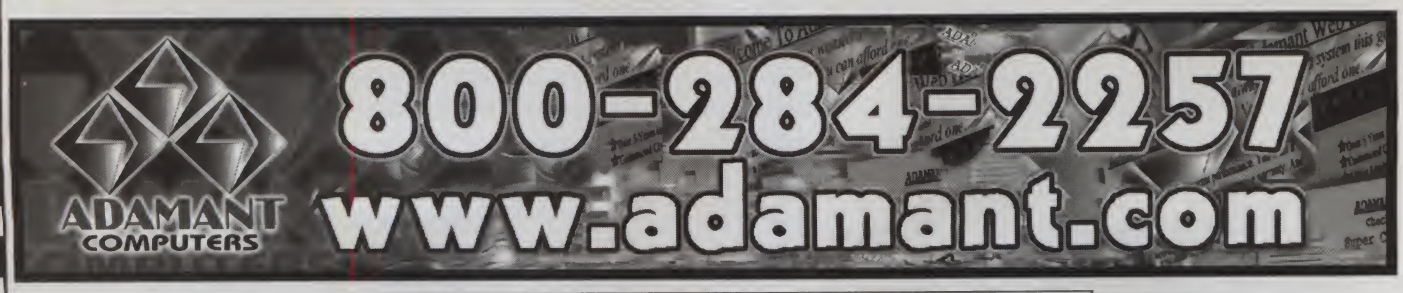
Case Specification & Price List

Model	Price	Dimension W.D.H.	MB Size	5.25.5 Ext./Int.	P.S.
R02 BARE	300	19x10.3x3.5	M.ATX	1/0 1/1	150W
R04B/W	290	19x24.3x3.5	ATX	1/0 1/3	250W
R08 B/W	2300	19x22x3.5			
R10B/W/X	245/270	19x18x7	B/ATX	3/0 1/1	250W/250X
R12B/W/X	305/325	19x19.7x7	B/ATX	4/0 1/0	250W/250X
R13 X	280	19x18x7	B/ATX	3/0 1/1	250W/250X
R14 B/W/X	230	19x21x7	B/ATX	3/0 1/3	300X
R18 B/W/X	240/270	19/18/7	B/ATX	3/0 1/2	250/250X
B20B/W	290	19x15.75x7		8/0	300W
R21B/W	290	19x18x7		8/0	300W
R22X/RX/B/W	635/950	19x23.3x10.5	ATX	8/0 1/0	300X/300RX
R26X/RX/B/W	630/850	19x22.8x10.7	ATX	4/0 2/4	300X/300RX
R28	290	19x17x8.7		8/0	300W
RSP	18	5.8x9.3x1.6		1	
RSM168/179	65/75	5.8x9.3x1.6		1	
001B	75	10x11.5x3		1/0	60W
001B1	85	8.3x10.8x2.8		1/0	50W
002B	88	8.9x14.8x5.8		2/0	60W
002B1	78	7.5x11.2x6.5		2/0	80W
004B	110	8.8x15.3x9.3		4/0	230W
004B1	100	7.5x17.3x10.2		4/0	200W
007B	185	7x15.8x13		7/0	250W
008B	280	8.4x20.2x18.3		8/0	300W
008B1	180	7.5x17.9x17.1		8/0	250W
105LPX/NLX	330/460 II	12.4x14.5x3.4	LPX	1/0 1/1	85W
108NLX bare	330/410 II	11x13.8x3.4	NLX	1/0 1/1	135W
116	299	10.1x11.7x3.1	LPX	1/0 1/1	135W
136/I	85/96	11.8x13.5x3	AIO	0/0 1/1	80W
168	85	15.25x14.5x3.5	NLX	1/0 1/1	145W
169	255	12.5x14.3x3.4	LPX	1/0 1/1	150W
182	260	13.75x15.2x2.9	AIO	2/0	150W
192	85	13.1x16.5x3.5	LPX	1/0 1/1	150W
224	75	17.4x18.8x6.1	ATX	3/0 2/2	230X
225	65	14.8x17.3x5.3	M.ATX	2/0 1/2	150X
254	85	17x18.3x6.3	B	3/0 2/2	250W
267	75	18.8x18.8x6.2	ATX	2/0 2/1	250X
271	90	17.3x15.9x5.5	ATX	2/0 1/1	250XB
288	75	16.9x17x6	ATX	3/0 2/1	230X
325B	75	8x18.5x17	ATX	3/0 2/1	235X
327	72	7.5x18.5x17.3	ATX	3/0 2/2	230X
328	75	7.5x17.6x16.7	ATX	3/0 2/1	230X
336	55	7.2x13.5x12.3	M.ATX	2/0 2/1	145W
338	55	7x14.7x13.8	M.ATX	2/0 2/1	145W
348	85	7.9x17.4x17.2	ATX	3/0 1/2	230X
349	55	8.4x17x15.8	ATX	3/0 1/3	230X
355	90	9.5x16.6x15.2	ATX	3/0 2/1	230X
360	65	9x17x15	ATX	3/0 3/1	230X
370	89	8.3x17.3x16.1	ATX	3/0 2/2	250WB
383	85	8.3x16.8x18.1	ATX	3/0 1/3	230X
396	60	8.3x17x15.5	ATX	3/0 1/3	230X
401X	110	8.5x17.3x18	ATX	2/0 2/2	250X
406	85	8.2x19.8x18.4	ATX	3/0 1/5	250X
408	85	8.2x19.8x18.4	ATX	3/0 1/5	250X
418	75	7.5x16.8x19.3	ATX	3/0 3/1	230X
423	70	7.7x16.6x18.1	B	4/0 1/4	250W
424	70	7.5x18.9x16.7	ATX	4/0 2/1	250X
426B/W	80	7.5x17.5x19.3	ATX	3/0 2/2	250X
436	70/85	8.6x18x15.6	ATX	3/0 2/2	250/300X
455	110	8.5x17.5x18.8	ATX	4/0 2/3	250X
456	85	7.5x17.8x17	ATX	3/0 2/3	250X
466	85	7.4x18.7x16.8	ATX	3/0 2/3	250X
468	85/100	7.5x18.7x18.8	ATX	3/0 2/4	250X/300X
469*	85	7.8x16.5x17	ATX	2/0 1/3	250X
470	110	8.3x17.3x21.3	ATX	4/1 1/2	250XB
483	90	8.3x18.8x17.3	ATX	4/0 1/3	250WX
486	87	9.6x19.5x17	ATX	4/0 2/1	250WX
487**	85	7.3x17x17	ATX	3/0 1/2	230X
488	85	7.75x18.7x19.1	ATX	3/0 2/2	250X
489**	85	7.3x17x17	ATX	3/0 1/2	235X
501	185	8.25x17.2x23.8	ATX	4/0 2/4	300X
503R/RX/B/P	455	14.8x20.4x18.4	F/ATX	8/0 2/4	300R/RX
503/X/B/P	305	14.8x20.4x18.4	F/ATX	8/0 2/4	300W/300X
505/X	555	14.8x23x26.8	F/ATX	12/0 1/8	300W/WX
505R/RX	705	14.6x23x26.8	F/ATX	12/0 1/8	300R/RX
506X/RX	170/480	7.8x16.5x24.4	ATX	6/0 2/2	300X/300RX
518	105/120	7.5x16.8x24.4	ATX	6/0 3/1	230X/300X
524	380	13.9x25.6x19.1	ATX	7/0 1/2	300RX
526B/W	105/120	7.5x17.5x24.5	ATX	6/0 1/4	250X/300X
528	105/120	7.5x16.5x24.8	ATX	6/0 1/5	250X/300X
536X	93/108	7.8x17x24	ATX	5/0 1/5	250X/300X
538	290	8x20.5x24.5	ATX	5/0 1/8	300RX
541X	105/120	7.5x16.6x25.2	ATX	6/0 1/5	250X/300X
555B/W/R	440/680	11x19.3x23.6	F	4/8 0/0	400W/300R
555X/RX	440/700	11x19.3x23.8	ATX	4/8 0/0	300X/300RX
558/B/W/R	160/410	8.7x17.8x26.8	F	5/3 2/0	300W/300R
558X/RX	160/410	8.7x17.8x26.8	ATX	5/3 2/0	300X300RX
559	65	7.3x18.3x24.5	AT	6/0 3/2	250W
562X/R/B/W	250/470	8.7x17.9x26.8	ATX	9/1 1/0	300X300RX
563/RB/W	160/390	8.7x17.9x26.8	F	10/0	300W/300R
563X/RB/W	160/390	8.7x17.9x26.8	ATX	10/0	300X/300RX
565	195	9.25x18.3x21.2	XEON/ATX	4/0 2/4	300X
568	105/120	7.5x17x22.8	ATX	5/0 2/4	250X/300X
569/X/B/W	225	13.5x17.8x14	B/ATX	4/2 0/8	300W/300X
570X/RX	150/400	8.3x17.3x26.4	ATX	7/1 1/2	300X/300RX
571X/RX	160/400	8.3x17.3x26.4	ATX	6/1 1/2	300X/300RX
582	105/120	7.8x18.5x23.2	ATX	5/0 1/7	250X/300X
588	105/120	7.8x18.5x23.3	ATX	5/0 1/3	250X/300X
1400R/RX	750	18x20x24	F/ATX	14/0	300RX
1620R/RX	990	18.5x20.3x34.3	F/ATXx2	16/0	300RX

*Case Color: Blue, Purple, Green, Orange, Red.
**Case Color: Blue, Purple, Green, Red, Black.

Model# Starts with:
1 for Slim Case,
3 for Mini-Mid Case,
5 for Full/File Server Case
2 for Desktop Case
4 for Mid Case

Side Open: Side Panel can be removed independently
Slide Door: Sliding front door up and down
Slide MB Plate: Motherboard tray ca slide in and out form rear



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- V.90 Diamond Supra 56k Fax/Modem
- 6x4x32 EIDE CD-RW Drive
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- 17"1280x1024 .27 SVGA Monitor
- Altec Lansing ACS-33 Powercube 3-Speakers set with Subwoofer
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- Sound Pro-32 3D Sound Card
- 17" 1280x1024 .27 SVGA Monitor
- Altec Lansing ACS-33 Powercube 3-Speakers set with Subwoofer
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- 4MB S3 AGP Video Card
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- Sound Blaster Live Value Sound Card
- V.90 Diamond Standard 56k Fax/Modem
- 10/100BASE-T Network Card
- 19" 1280x1024 .26 SVGA Monitor
- PS/2 Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse
- Altec Lansing ACS-33 Powercube
- 3-Speakers Set with Subwoofer,
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- PS/2 Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse
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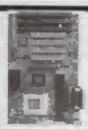

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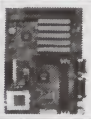

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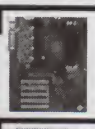

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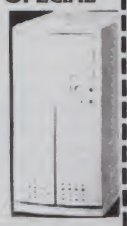

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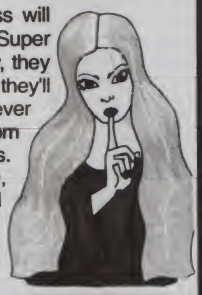

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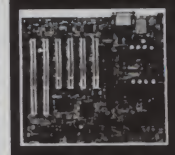

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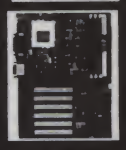

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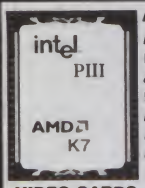

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networking YOUR home

BY BRUCE AND MARGE BROWN

As ubiquitous as the Internet is, sometimes we can't get the access to it that we want. This is an ever-present problem for households with multiple PCs. Dad, Mom, and the kids frequently have to compete for dialing into the Internet one at a time, unless they have separate phone lines and additional ISP accounts. The fortunate few who have cable or DSL modems for broadband Internet access face even greater pressure to share this speedy connection throughout the home.

The simple and inexpensive solution to this problem is to set up a home network. While a home network will let you share hard drives and printers across all the PCs networked within your house—as well as permit room-to-room network gaming—the number-one reason for networking your home is to share Internet access. By sharing Internet access, an entire family of PC users can have multiple systems accessing the Internet simultaneously over a single connection (dial-up or broadband).

The good news is that the hardware has gotten faster and less expensive, software and documentation have improved, and new methods of connecting PCs eliminate the need to run cables all around your house. In fact, network cards based on the new HomePNA 2.0 phone-line standard are already being offered by numerous vendors. Using HomePNA 2.0 (which we chose for this Tune-Up), you can network PCs for as little as $50 apiece, and cabling is no more complicated than plugging into your telephone wall sockets. You could spend even less if you choose a wired Ethernet solution, but that requires you to string cables throughout your hallways and up and down stairs—or to pass cables through holes in your ceilings and walls.

We'll proceed step by step through the installation of a phone-line network using HomePNA 2.0 PCI network interface cards (NICs), plugged into systems that will share drives, a printer, and Internet access, the last through a dial-up modem. We chose Netgear's Phoneline 10X cards *(www.netgear.com)*, which sell for $53 on average per card, but most vendors' HomePNA 2.0 solutions should work almost the same. If your PCs don't have available PCI slots, you'll need to use a HomePNA 2.0 USB solution, which should be just hitting the shelves about the time you read this.

STEP 1 To run a HomePNA 2.0 network, each networked PC needs to be running Windows 95, Windows 98, or Windows 98 Second Edition. Each system needs an available PCI slot and a CD-ROM drive. It also wouldn't be a bad idea to have your original Windows CD-ROM disc nearby. Of course, each networked system needs to be positioned close to a modular phone jack. (Networked PCs in the same room can share the same jack by using a line splitter.) The only tool you should need is a Phillips-head screwdriver.

Getting ready

Be sure that all of the pieces are included in your starter kit. At a minimum, you should have a NIC and a standard RJ-11 phone cable for each system, plus installation software and documentation.

Be sure to read all the documentation before starting. All manuals and quick-start guides are not created equal, and installing the hardware and software in the proper order can be critical to success.

STEP 2 The first system you set up should be the one that has the direct dial-up or broadband Internet connection. Turn off the PC, unplug all of its power and interface cables, and remove the system's cover. If there is a backplate cover (at the rear of the system unit) for the PCI slot where you'll install the card, remove that cover and put it aside. Insert the NIC firmly into the PCI slot and screw down the backplate bracket to hold the card in place. The card may be difficult to insert, but as long as it fits completely into the slot it should work fine. Replace the cover and plug in the power and data cables you removed.

Installing the card

To be certain that the card is installed securely, try rocking it back and forth a bit. You should feel very little play.

learning more

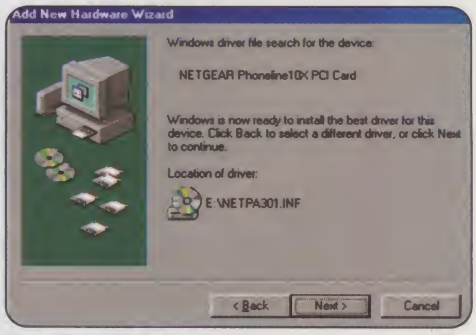
If you want to learn more about home phone-line networking, start with the Home Phoneline Networking Alliance ***(www.homepna.org)***. For further information, visit ***www.home-networking.org*** for a glossary and user forums, or check out the International Engineering Consortium's Web ProForums site for a tutorial on home networking ***(www.webproforum.com/home_net)***. For a good overview of the state of home networking now and the direction it's taking, Future Home: Home Networking ***(www.zdnet.com/techlife/futurehome/homenetworking)*** from ZDNet, our parent company, will get you up to speed quickly. ▼

STEP 3 For your initial system (the one with the direct Internet connection), most HomePNA 2.0 solutions will have you route the RJ-11 phone cable from the wall jack to the modem to the back of the NIC, but confirm this in the documentation. For the rest of the PCs on your network, you'll simply route the phone cable from the NIC to the nearest wall jack. If you have multiple phone lines, all the PCs must connect to the same line.

Connecting the telephone cables

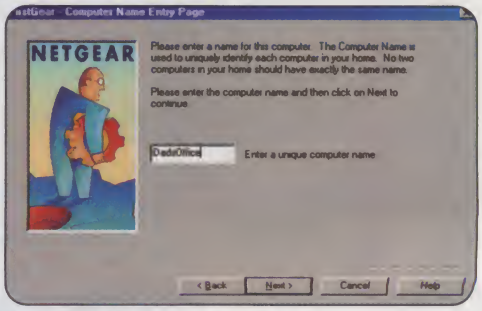
Make sure your phone cable is long enough to reach from the back of your PC to the wall jack. It's okay to use phone-cable extensions, but if you do, you'll need a coupler to join the two cables.

STEP 4 Power your PC back up. Windows should detect the new card and automatically launch the Add New Hardware wizard. Insert the installation disc that came with the starter kit, and direct the wizard to fetch the driver it needs from the kit's CD-ROM. The onscreen prompts will guide you through installing the drivers. You might be prompted to restart your computer during this process; if so, click "Yes."



Installing the drivers

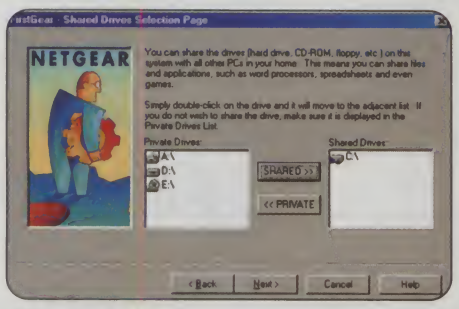
STEP 5 Now it's time to install the network software. If the Setup program doesn't automatically launch from the CD-ROM, you should manually launch it. The program will prompt you to enter a unique network name for the PC and a common name for your network. It's best to name each computer with a simple identifier that makes sense to you (such as "PetesPC" or "DadsOffice"), and to use a generic name for the workgroup (such as "Home" or "Workgroup").



Installing the network software

STEP 6 During the network software installation, you'll be prompted to select which of the system's drives can be shared by other systems on the network. With Netgear's FirstGear software, the Shared Drives Selection Page displays the available drives in a Private Drives section on the left side of the window.

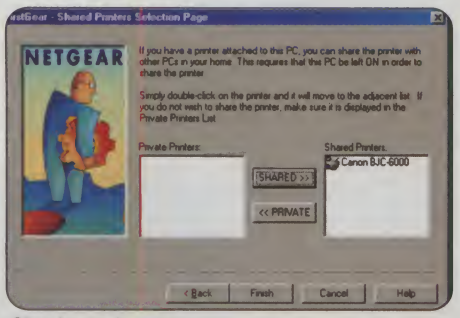
You can set a drive to shared status by highlighting it and clicking the Shared button, which moves the drive over to the Shared Drives section on the right. You can always change these settings later.



Sharing drives

When you a make a drive shareable, anyone with access to your network can see, change, or delete files on that drive.

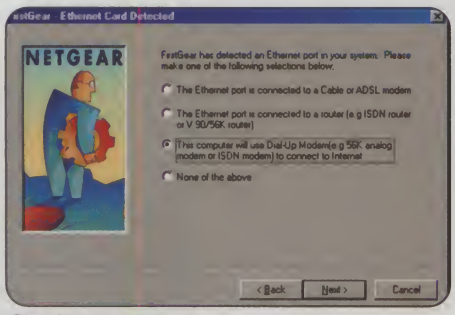
STEP 7 If a printer is attached to the PC, FirstGear's installation procedure will next bring up the Shared Printers Selection Page. This window looks and acts just like the Shared Drives screen. Simply highlight each printer you want to share in the Private Printers window on the left and click on the Shared button to make it a shared printer, moving it to the Shared Printers window on the right.



Sharing printers

Making a printer shareable does not automatically mean that other networked PCs can use it. You must "add" the printer to each PC. (See Step 10.)

STEP 8 The final step of the FirstGear installation is perhaps the most important: setting up the shared Internet connection. Follow the prompts carefully, making certain to choose the desired connection method if more than one is detected on your system.



Sharing an Internet connection

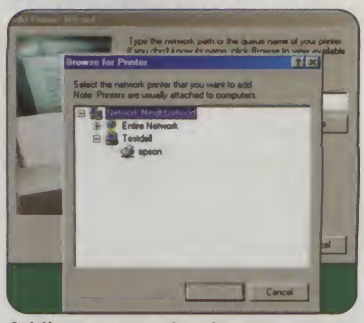
Some ISPs restrict access to only one PC at a time.

STEP 9 You're not done setting up your network until you have at least two systems networked together. Repeat the above steps for each additional system you want to add to your home network.

STEP 10 If you want to print using a printer attached to a different PC on the network, you'll need to run FirstGear's Add Network Printer utility on each system you wish to print from. You should be able to choose any printer that has been set to be shared and is attached to a system currently logged onto the network.

Some printers have additional software that you'll need to load on each PC. ▼

TUNE-UP



Adding a network printer

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security starts at home

Whenever you put a computer on any kind of network, it's prudent to consider a few potential security issues. With a home network, you're increasing the likelihood of virus infections and possible threats to your PCs from the outside world over a shared Internet connection. This is especially true if you have a broadband connection and take advantage of this always available connection by leaving your systems on all the time and constantly connected to the Internet.

To guard against virus damage, you should not only use antivirus software, but also update it regularly. In addition, the Internet-sharing utility you use can be vulnerable to attack. There's no guarantee that the one bundled with your network startup kit will provide an adequate level of protection.

In fact, the Internet Connection Sharing utility included with Windows 98 Second Edition might be a better option than what comes bundled with your starter kit. It provides a decent amount of protection with its Network Address Translation (NAT) feature, which hides the IP addresses of your PCs from others.

Another viable option is investing in third-party software that provides additional levels of security. Two such applications are Norton Internet Security 2000 (downloadable for $53.95 at ***www.symantecstore.com***) and the McAfee.com Personal Firewall ($39.95 for a one-year subscription at ***www.mcafee.com***). To test how vulnerable your Internet exposure may be, Gibson Research Corp.'s free utility ShieldsUp (***www.grc.com***) will check your PC and report on the level of Internet protection your system is affording you. ▼

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SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 284

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- Toshiba 40x Speed SCSI CD-Rom
- Intel 10~100BT NIC onboard
- **Server Case, 3x400W Redundant**
- MS-Mouse&104KeysKeyboard

Xeon-450-Dual/Quad....$7999/$9299
Xeon-500-Dual/Quad...$8899/$10099
Xeon-550-Dual/Quad...$9029/$11179
Adaptec Raid Controller.....$Call
Add MS-NT4.0 Server(5~25)..$Call

4U Web Server

- Dual CPU Ready, 128MB Sdram
- Adaptec 7890 Ultra2 W/S3(80MB)
- **9GB U2 W/S3 hard drive**
- 100MB IDE Zip, 1.44MB Floppy
- 48x Speed IDE CD-ROM
- Trident T975, 3D AGP w/4MB
- Intel Express Pro PCI 10/100BT
- **4U/19" Rackmount, w/250W ATX**
- MS-Mouse&104keysKeyboard

Dual Pentium-3-500.....$1619
Dual Pentium-3-550.....$1699
Dual Pentium-3-600E.....$1649
Dual Pentium-3-650E.....$1899
Dual Pentium-3-700.....$2139
Dual Pentium-3-800E.....$2759
Linux 6.2(pre-installed).....$49

2U Web Server

- Supermicro P6DM3, Intel 840 chipset
- Dual CPU, 128MB/ECC, 133Mhz
- Adaptec 7892, U3/160MB
- **9GB U3/LVD, 160MB/Sec SCSI**
- 48x Speed IDE CD-ROM
- 4MPCI VGA, 1.44 floppy drive
- Intel Express Pro PCI 10/100BT
- **2U/19" Rackmount, w/250W ATX**
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Dual Pentium-3-500.....$1789
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Dual Pentium-3-650E.....$2049
Dual Pentium-3-700E.....$2299
Dual Pentium-3-800E.....$2919
MS-Windows 2000.....$Call

1U Web Server

- Supermicro 370SEA w/CPU&Fan
- Intel 810 chipset,66/100/133FSB
- 128MB Sdram (up to 512MB)
- 20GB,9ms,7200rpm ATA/66 drive
- AGP w/4MB+Flat Panel support
- Integrated Audio/Modem function
- Intel PCI 10/100BT w/Riser card
- 48x Speed IDE CD-Rom
- 31/2" 1.44MB floppy drive
- PS/2 104 keyboard&MS-Mouse
- **Black 1U Rackmount w/100WP.S**

Intel Celeron PPGA-533.....$1019
Intel P3-550E-FCPGA.....$1139
Intel P3-600E-FCPGA.....$1189
Intel P3-667-FCPGA.....$1289
Intel P3-733-FCPGA.....$1439
Intel P3-750-FCPGA.....$1499

CAD Station

- P6SBU w/CPU,128MB Memory
- Adaptec 7890 Ultra2 W/S3(80MB)
- 9GB Ultra-II Wide S3 Hard Drive
- 100MB IDE Zip, 1.44MB Floppy
- 40x Speed SCSI CD-ROM
- ATI Rage Fury/PC2TV,32MB
- Sound Blaster Live Value PCI
- Diamond 56K/V.90 PCI w/Voice
- Altec Lansing 3PCS Power Cube
- Mid-Tower case w/250 ATX P.S
- MS-Mouse&104KeysKeyboard
- **Nokia 446,19" 1600x1200, 21dpi**
- Windows 98" Installed(licensed)

Pentium-3-500.....$2189
Pentium-3-550.....$2219
Pentium-3-650E.....$2309
Pentium-3-700E.....$2439
Pentium-3-800E.....$2729

Super Station

- P6SCD w/CPU,64MB Sdram
- Intel 820 Chip,100/133MhzFSB
- 13GB ATA/66MB,7200rpm
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- Altec Lansing Stereo Speaker
- Diamond 56K PCI/V.90w/Voice
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- ATI Xpert@Play(PC2TV),8MB
- Windows 98" Pre-installed

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- Hollywood Home Theater Speaker
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Intel Celeron PPGA-500.....$639
Intel Celeron PPGA-533.....$659

Video Cards

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- Evans Lightning,AGP,32MB.....$469
- Elsa Erazer X,AGP 32MB.....$185
- Elsa Erazer3/TNT2,AGP,32M.....$Call

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- HP-C1599,4mm Dat,4/8GB SCSI.....$559

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- STD224000N12/24GB,DDS-2,SCSI..$659

SONY Tape Drive:

- SDT5000K 4~8GB,DDS-2,SCSI.....$375
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- SDT9000K 12/24GB,DDS-2,SCSI....$675

Quantum Tape Drive:

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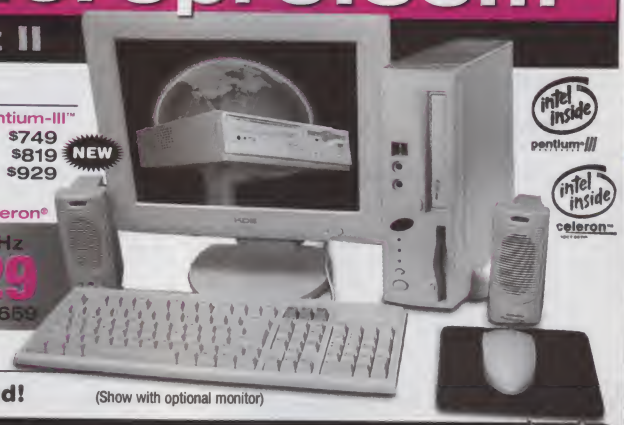

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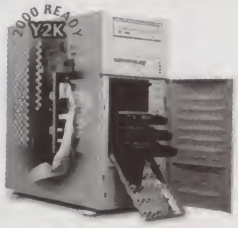

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RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Dear Alfred:

I constantly get messages that my PC's resources are dangerously low. The machine is very unstable. Sometimes, opening or closing a program or simply opening a Web page will lock the machine or cause it to crash. I have reinstalled Windows 98 and Microsoft's updates numerous times—all to no avail. I'm thinking of upgrading from 64MB to 128MB.

S. McNary

You're not likely to solve this problem by adding more physical memory. Windows allocates a small portion of memory for different tasks, and these portions are not affected by the total amount of memory installed. If you get too low on available resources, your system is just about guaranteed to crash, sometimes without warning or error messages.

The solution is to make the best use of these limited resources, which means managing what uses them. A likely culprit is having lots of programs that automatically load when Windows starts. A taskbar tray full of icons is a tip-off. You can use the System Configuration Utility (Start/Programs/Accessories/System Tools/System Information, then choose Tools/System Configuration Utility/Startup) to select only the items you want to load. This is safer than removing lines from WIN.INI or the Registry, because it is easily reversible. Cut down the number of programs loading and you increase available resources, which should help keep the system from crashing so often.

HALF-BAKED BIOS REVISITED

The item in my April column about the failed BIOS update produced a huge response, both by e-mail and in the Alfred's Computer Cures discussion forum on ZDNet. A number of people mentioned that many computer systems use a backup process that gives you the opportunity to save the current BIOS on a floppy disk. If the update process goes awry, you can restore the BIOS from the floppy.

That's fine, provided your system is still working well enough that it can access the floppy. Others wrote about systems that provide even more protection. Cetin Denislam pointed out that some motherboards now include "backup" ROMs with a BIOS version that can be used to get the system running if the main copy becomes corrupted.

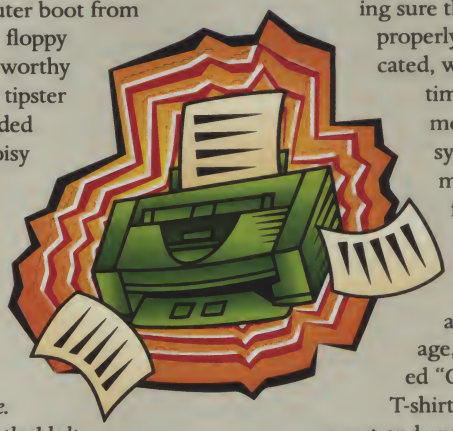
Veteran tipster Norman Worley pointed out that most motherboards use the same type of EEPROM (electrically erasable programmable read-only memory) to store the BIOS. You can save the chips from old motherboards and get a computer shop to burn in a recovery copy of your BIOS that you can then plug into your system in an emergency. And to prevent viruses from changing your BIOS settings, he suggests replacing the EEPROM with an EPROM (erasable programmable read-only memory) that cannot be altered without erasing first with ultraviolet light.

The bottom line remains the same: Don't upgrade your BIOS unless you have a compelling reason to do so. And if you do, make sure you have a recovery plan in place—with backups, if possible—before you start. ▼

tip of the month

RIDING THE RAILS

My recent appeal for tips has opened the floodgates. It's tough to pick just one this month, when you have Kendall Crawford's tip to avoid static problems by going barefoot, and Moses Shuldiner's reasons why it's better to have your computer boot from your hard drive before the floppy drive, among many other worthy suggestions. This month's tipster package, however, is awarded for a method to quiet a noisy inkjet printer.



Dear Alfred:

Many people have reported the same problem I had with an Epson inkjet: a loud chattering noise when the print head moves to the edge of the page. The noise comes from the toothed belt jumping on the cog, which is caused by thickened lubricant on the print head's guide rail. This oil gets sticky when it's old, and you need to clean it off with alcohol or window cleaner. Then apply a thin coat of good-quality oil along the length of the rail. (I prefer a Teflon-based oil from RadioShack.)

Robert Barr

That's a great tip on two levels. First, it solves a nasty problem with a simple, inexpensive solution that may not be immediately obvious to most users. On a larger scale, it also reminds us that there are many mechanical links in the chain of products we use for our electronic computing, and, like all mechanical devices, they require physical maintenance from time to time. Whether it's removing the dust from your power-supply cooling fan or making sure that printer parts are properly cleaned and lubricated, we need to take the time to make sure the moving parts of our systems are properly maintained. Thanks for the reminder.

Send us your favorite tip, and you could receive a tipster's prize package, including a coveted "Computer Cures" T-shirt, plus some other secret and exciting items that you can't get anywhere else. Send your questions and tips to:

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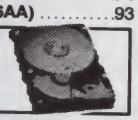

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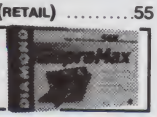

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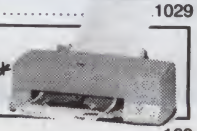

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BUYING ADVISOR

by Asa Somers

Monitoring The Situation

Finding a 17-inch CRT for $250 is easy. The hard part is choosing the best display from a crowded field.

ADDING A GOOD MONITOR is one of the easiest ways to improve your computing experience without spending too much money. And that's what Harlan Sieth, a retired electrical engineer from Black Creek, Wis., aims to do by adding a 17-inch CRT to his built-from-scratch system.

But he quickly discovered that shopping for a monitor is surprisingly complicated. "I found about 50 different manufacturers and suppliers, and each one had between five and 10 models," Sieth says. Even a budget cap of $250 doesn't narrow the field much: You can find hundreds of 17-inchers for less than that.

Sieth says he does "just about everything" on his computer, from word processing to graphics, which means he will want to take advantage of higher resolutions and better dot pitches. We narrowed the field down to a tidy 20 or so units that met our price filter from a dozen merchants, and then began comparing their features.

Some 17-inch monitors support resolutions as high as 1,600x1,280 pixels, which is great if you're doing CAD modeling but is overkill for most other users. We find that XGA resolution (1,024x768) works best for general-purpose computing, and Super XGA (1,280x1,024, also called SXGA) can be useful for higher-end graphics work, gaming, and watching DVD movies.

AcerView G772

Meanwhile, a higher refresh rate at a given resolution means the image repaints itself more times per second, resulting in less flicker and, consequently, less eyestrain.

Dot pitch, which is measured in millimeters, is a measure of the distance between the individual phosphors that comprise the monitor's picture. The smaller the dot pitch, the better. The one problem is that most monitor manufacturers provide the *diagonal* dot pitch, whereas a few report the smaller *horizontal* measurement, sometimes making true apples-to-apples comparisons tricky. For all the monitors we looked at, dot pitch was measured diagonally.

In our price range, Trinitron and Diamondtron monitors (two competing technologies from Sony and Mitsubishi, respectively), aren't really an option. These higher-end models offer beautiful flat screens, resulting in horizontal lines that look straighter, and they display a brighter image. On the downside, many users dislike the two ultrathin lines that run horizontally across these screens about two inches from the top and bottom.

After disqualifying pricey Trinitrons and Diamondtrons, the first monitor we considered was the **EO705** from Princeton Graphics *(www.princetongraphics.com)*. The EO705 is a 17-inch model with a 15.9-inch viewable screen that supports a maximum SXGA resolution at a 66Hz refresh rate. Its dot pitch is 0.27mm, which could be a little better. The unit comes with a three-year parts-and-labor warranty. We found it online for a reasonable $214.04, shipping included, at eCost.com. Great price, but we'd prefer a better dot pitch.

CHALLENGE

USER PROFILE

Harlan Sieth, a retired electrical engineer who built his own PC and has everything but the monitor

COMPUTING NEEDS

A sub-$250 17-inch CRT with a dot pitch fine enough to handle occasional high-end tasks such as graphics editing

BUYING ADVISOR

NEC *(www.nec.com)* was next on our shopping list. The company's **AccuSync 70** features a 0.27mm dot pitch and handles SXGA resolution at 66Hz. It's not much different from the Princeton model, except that at only 16.5 inches deep, it isn't as desk-space-hungry. It, too, features a standard three-year parts-and-labor warranty. We found it at Computers4Sure.com for $215.26, including shipping.

Another big name in monitors, ViewSonic *(www.viewsonic.com)*, offers a model with almost identical specs. The critically acclaimed **E771** features a 0.27mm dot pitch and a 66Hz refresh rate at its maximum SXGA resolution. We found it for $218.23 at eCost.com, including shipping. It measures 16.8 inches deep.

We got a little closer with a 0.26mm-dot-pitch model, the **Q73**, at OptiQuest *(www.optiquest.com)*. The Q73 features a 66Hz refresh rate at SXGA resolution and a three-year parts-and-labor warranty. It was priced at $213.36 at eCost.com.

Finally, we found what we were looking for at Acer *(www.acer.com)*. The **AcerView G772** has a 0.25mm dot pitch and a 67Hz refresh rate at SXGA resolution. It also features a three-year parts-and-labor warranty and measures a reasonable 16.9 inches deep. We priced it at PCNation *(www.pcnation.com)* for $241.10, shipping included.

Choosing among these five models is tough. But all else being equal, Sieth will probably prefer the finer dot pitch of the AcerView G772, although he'll pay about $25 more for it. If he's not willing to pony up that much extra cash, he can go with the ViewSonic E771. We've evaluated it in the past and have always found the company's monitors to be solid.

SOLUTION

THE ADVISOR'S CHOICE

The **AcerView G772** delivers a tight dot pitch of 0.25mm and a refresh rate of 67Hz at 1,280x1,024, as well as a three-year warranty. At $241.10, it even beats the shopper's price cap. The runner-up in this crowded field is the **ViewSonic E771**, which offers a 0.27mm dot pitch and a 66Hz refresh rate for just $218.23.

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MOTHERBOARDS

ABIT www.abit-usa.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
ABVA6	PII-733	4	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$82
ABZM6	PPGA	5	2	1	3/168	440LX	ATX	$90
ABVT6X4	PII-800	5	1	1	3/168	VIA133	ATX	$98
ABWX6	PPGA	5			2/168	810	ATX	$107
ABBF6	PII-600	6	1	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$110
ABWB6	PII-733	3	1	AMR	3/168	810E	ATX	$119
ABBE62	PII-600	5	1	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$125
ABBP6	DUAL	5	2	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$136
ABKA7	K7	6	1	1	4/168	VIA	ATX	$155

ASUS www.asus.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
ASP5AB	SOCKET7	3	2	1	3/168	M1541	AT	$86
ASP5A	SOCKET7	5	2	1	3/168	M1541	ATX	$91
ASP5AA	SOCKET7	5	2	1	3/168	M1541	ATX	$99
ASP299	PII-600	4	3	1	3/168	440ZX	ATX	$99
ASP299B	PII-600	3	2	1	3/168	440ZX	AT	$101
ASP3V4X	PII-733	6	1	1	4/168	VIA133	ATX	$104
ASP3W	PII-733	5	2		3/168	810	ATX	$107
ASP2BB	PII-600	3	2	1	3/168	440BX	AT	$123
ASP3BF	PII-600	5	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$123
ASCUWE-RM	FCPGA	3		AMR	3/168	810	ATX	$127
ASP3WE	PII-733	6		AMR	3/168	810	ATX	$140
ASK7M-WA	K7	6	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$154
ASP3C2000	PII-733	5	1	1	4/168	820	ATX	$152
ASK7V-WOA	K7	5		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$151
ASK7V-WA	K7	5		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$162
ASP2BL	PII-600	4	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$167
ASP2BVM	PII-600	3	1	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$172
ASP3CE	PII-733	5	1	1	2/RIMM	820	ATX	$187
ASP2BD	DUAL	4	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$266
ASP2BS	PII-600	4	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$304
ASP2BLS	PII-600	4	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$347
ASP3CD	DUAL	5		1	3/RIMM	820	ATX	$367
ASP2BDS	DUAL	4	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$444
ASP3CS	PII-733	5	1	1	2/RIMM	820	ATX	$414
ASXGDLS	DUALXEON	5	1	1	4/168	440GX	ATX	$734

FIC www.fica.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
FICVA-503+	SOCKET7	3	3	1	3/168	VIA	AT	$71
FICPA-2013	SOCKET7	4	2	1	3/168	VIA/MVP	AT	$79
FICVB-601	PII-600	5	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$84
FICVA-503A	SOCKET7	4	2	1	3/168	VIA/MVP	AT	$80
FICSD11	K7	5	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$102

intel www.intel.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
INSE440BX2NA	PII-600	4	2	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$102
INSE440BX2	PII-600	4	2	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$105
INCC820NA	PII-700	5		1	2/168	820	ATX	$117
INCC820WA	PII-700	5		1	2/168	820	ATX	$119
INN440BX	DUAL	4	2		4/168	440BX	ATX	$469

MICROSTAR www.microstarinternational.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
MICMS-5169	SOCKET7	4	3	1	3/168	ALI	ATX	$79
MICMS-6153VA	FCPGA	3		AMR	2/168	ALI	ATX	$84
MICMS-6163PRO	PII-600	5	2	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$94
MICMS-6301	PII-733	5	1	1	3/168	820	ATX	$130
MICMS-6195	K7	6	1	1	3/168	AMD	ATX	$134

SUPERMICRO www.supermicro.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
SMP6SBA	PII-600	4	3	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$99
SMP6DBE	DUAL	5	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$166
SMP6SBU	PII-600	4	3	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$299
SMS2DGE	DUALXEON	5	2	1	4/168	440GX	ATX	$304
SMP6DBU	DUAL	5	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$394
SMP6DGU	DUAL	5	2	1	4/168	440GX	ATX	$427
SMS2DGU	DUALXEON	5	2	1	4/168	440GX	ATX	$469

TYAN www.tyan.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
TYS1590S	SOCKET7	4	4	1	3/168	VIA	AT	$89
TYS1598S	SOCKET7	5	2	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$95
TYS1854	PPGA/SLOT1	6	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$96
TYS1830S	PII-550	3	3	1	4/168	449BX	AT	$112
TYS1598C2	SOCKET7	5	2	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$113
TYS2380	K7	6	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$139
TYS1832DL	DUAL	4	1	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$164
TYS1952DLU	DUALXEON	5	1	1	4/168	440GX	ATX	$529
TYS2257DUAN	DUAL	6	1	1	4/168	840	ATX	$589

CPU'S

ALL CPU'S HAVE A 1 YEAR WARRANTY WHEN PURCHASED WITH A CPU FAN. Those marked as "BOXED" have a 3 year warranty.

intel www.intel.com

INTEL	486DX2 (PULLS)	66MHZ 5VOLT	$6
INTEL	486DX2	66MHZ 5VOLT	$9
INTEL	486DX4 (PULLS)	100MHZ 3VOLT	$20
INTEL	PENTIUM	133MHZ	$26
INTEL	PENTIUM	166MHZ	$35
INTEL	PENTIUM MMX	200MHZ	$44
INTEL	PENTIUM MMX	233MHZ	$47
INTEL	CELERON-A PPGA	433MHZ 128K	$102
INTEL	CELERON-A PPGA	466MHZ 128K	$103
INTEL	CELERON-A PPGA	500MHZ 128K	$112
INTEL	CELERON-A PPGA	533MHZ 128K	$118
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	533MHZ 128K	$111
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	566MHZ 128K	$129
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	600MHZ 128K	$179
INTEL	PENTIUM II	400MHZ 512K	$169
INTEL	PENTIUM III	500MHZ 256K FCPGA	$205
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	533MHZ 256K FCPGA	$209
INTEL	PENTIUM III	550MHZ 256K FCPGA	$229
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	600MHZ 256K FCPGA	$227
INTEL	PENTIUM III	600MHZ 256K FCPGA	$269
INTEL	PENTIUM III	650MHZ 256K FCPGA	$267
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	667MHZ 256K FCPGA	$262
INTEL	PENTIUM III	700MHZ 256K FCPGA	$347
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	733MHZ 256K FCPGA	$389
INTEL	PENTIUM III	750MHZ 256K FCPGA	$479
INTEL	PENTIUM III	800MHZ 256K FCPGA	$599
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	866MHZ 256K FCPGA	$819
INTEL	PENTIUM III	550MHZ 512K SECC	$267
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	600MHZ 256K SECC	$279
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	600MHZ 512K SECC	$269
INTEL	PENTIUM III	600MHZ 256K SECC	$299
INTEL	PENTIUM III	600MHZ 512K SECC	$399
INTEL	PENTIUM III	650MHZ 256K SECC	$314
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	667MHZ 256K SECC	$307
INTEL	PENTIUM III	700MHZ 256K SECC	$399
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	733MHZ 256K SECC	$469
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INTEL	PENTIUM III	850MHZ 256K SECC	$839
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	866MHZ 256K SECC	$839

AMD www.amd.com

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AMD	K6 II W/3D NOW	P333MHZ (66 MHZ)	$38
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AMD	K6 II W/3D NOW	P475MHZ (100 MHZ)	$48
AMD	K6 II W/3D NOW	P500MHZ (100 MHZ)	$51
AMD	K6 II W/3D NOW	P533MHZ (95 MHZ)	$54
AMD	K6 II W/3D NOW	P550MHZ (100 MHZ)	$71
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P600MHZ (200 MHZ)	$167
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P650MHZ (200 MHZ)	$169
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P700MHZ (200 MHZ)	$197
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P750MHZ (200 MHZ)	$239
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P800MHZ (200 MHZ)	$319
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P850MHZ (200 MHZ)	$439
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P900MHZ (200 MHZ)	$599
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P950MHZ (200 MHZ)	$749
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P100MHZ (200 MHZ)	$1129

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CLXGAMERR	SOUND BLSTR LIVE X-GAMER RETAIL	$91
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CLPLATINUMR	SOUND BLSTR LIVE PLATINUM RET	$179

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8MB	2X32	60NS	$7
16MB	4X32	60NS	$40
32MB	8X32	60NS	$79
64MB	16X32	60NS	$107

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16MB	4X36	60NS	$42
32MB	8X36	60NS	$84
64MB	16X36	60NS	$127
128MB	32X36	60NS	$249

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8MB	2X32 EDO	60NS	$13
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32MB	8X32 EDO	60NS	$72
64MB	16X32 EDO	60NS	$62
128MB	32X32 EDO	60NS	$187

168-PIN LONG DIMMS EDO

64MB	8X64	60NS 3.3VOLT	$99
64MB	8X72 (unbuffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$114
64MB	8X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$147
128MB	16X64	60NS 3.3VOLT	$199
128MB	16X72 (unbuffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$212
128MB	16X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$249
256MB	32X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$489

168-PIN LONG DIMMS SDRAM WITH EPROM (66MHz)

32MB	4X64	10NS	$27
64MB	8X64	10NS	$51
128MB	16X64	10NS	$102

168-PIN SDRAM WITH EPROM PC100/133

32MB	4X64	8NS	$27
64MB	8X64	8NS	$47
64MB PC133	8X64	7.5NS	$54
64MB	8X72	8NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$61
128MB	16X64	8NS	$94
128MB PC133	16X64	7.5NS	$104
128MB	16X72	8NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$117
128MB PC133	16X72	7.5NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$124
256MB	32X64	8NS	$199
256MB PC133	32X64	7.5NS	$204
256MB	32X72	8NS	$235
256MB PC133	32X72	7.5NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$247
512MB	64X72	8NS	$469

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matrox www.matrox.com

MATMEC200	G200	8MB, SDRAM AGP OEM (FIXED)	$53
MAT400SDR16	G400	16MB, SDRAM AGP OEM (SING)	$99
MAT400DUAL32	G400	32MB, SGRAM AGP OEM (DUAL)	$154
MAT400MAXD32	G400	32MB, SGRAM AGP OEM (DUAL)	$192

DIAMOND www.diamondmm.com

DISS8MB	SPEED STAR 8MB SDRAM AGP OEM	$26
DIST3S540	STEALTH III S540 16MB AGP OEM	$45
DISS16MB	SPEED STAR 16MB SDRAM AGP OEM	$47
DIST3S54032MB	STEALTH III S540 32MB AGP OEM	$61
DIV770-2S432MB	VIPER V770-2 W/TV 32MB AGP OEM	$127

ATI www.atitech.com

ATI3DCHG8A	3D CHARGER AGP OEM VER 8MB EDO	$32
ATIAIW8A	ALL-IN-WONDER AGP OEM 8MB SGRAM	$102
ATIX998A	EXPERT 99 AGP OEM VER 8MB	$47
ATIXR16A	EXPERT RAGE AGP OEM VER 16MB	$70
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STB www.stb.com

STB200016MB	3DFX VOODOO 3 AGP OEM 16MB	$75
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ASV6600P32A	GE FORCE 256 AGP OEM 32MB	$197
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WESTERN DIGITAL www.wdc.com

ALL WESTERN DIGITAL IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD64AA*	6450	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$81
WD84AA*	8400	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$84
WD102AA*	10200	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$93
WD136AA*	13600	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$107
WD153AA*	15300	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$109
WD100BA*	10000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$118
WD102BA*	10200	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$119
WD153BA*	15300	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$129
WD205AA*	20500	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$121
WD200BA*	20000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$154
WD205BA*	20500	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$157
WD307AA*	30700	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$159

FUJITSU www.fujitsu.com

ALL FUJITSU IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
FUJ3043AT	4300	10MS/5400	128K	3.5"/1"H	$73
FUJ3064AT	6400	10MS/5400	128K	3.5"/1"H	$75
FUJ3084AT	8400	10MS/5400	128K	3.5"/1"H	$85
FUJ3130AT*	13000	10MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1"H	$89
FUJ3017AT*	17000	10MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1"H	$119
FUJ3024AT*	20400	10MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1"H	$127
FUJ3136AH*	13600	9.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$131
FUJ3204AH*	20400	9.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$179
FUJ3273AT*	27300	10MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1"H	$179

Maxtor www.maxtor.com

ALL MAXTOR IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
MAX1025400*	10200	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$92
MAX1027200*	10200	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$107
MAX1365400*	13600	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$109
MAX1367200*	13600	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$134
MAX2045400*	20400	9.5 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$119
MAX1537200*	15300	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$132
MAX2047200*	20400	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$159
MAX2735400*	27300	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$179
MAX2737200*	27300	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$182
MAX4095400*	40900	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$229
MAX4097200*	40900	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$269

Quantum www.quantum.com

ALL QUANTUM IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
QU310200LB*	10200	8.9MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1"H	$102
QU310200LM*	10200	8.9MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$119
QU315000LB*	15000	8.9MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1"H	$117
QU315000LM*	15000	8.9MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$142
QU320400CX*	20400	9.5MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1"H	$142
QU326000LA*	26000	8.9MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1"H	$152
QU330000LB*	30000	8.9MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1"H	$192

NOTEBOOK DRIVES

TOSHIBA www.toshiba.com

ALL TOSHIBA IDE NOTEBOOK DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 1YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
TO6014MAP	6000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$147
TO6412MAT	6400	13MS/4200	512K	2.5"/8.4MM	$139
TO6414MAP	6400	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$167
TO1214GAP	12000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$197
TO1814GAV	18100	13MS/4200	1048K	2.5"/12MM	$294

IBM www.ibm.com

ALL IBM IDE NOTEBOOK DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 1YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
IBM206480	6480	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/9.5MM	$144
IBM212000	12000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/9.5MM	$199
IBM214000	14000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/17MM	$309
IBM218000	18000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/12.5MM	$339

Ultra Narrow & Wide SCSI DRIVES

WESTERN DIGITAL

www.wdc.com

ALL WESTERN DIGITAL SCSI DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 5YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD18300LW	18300	6.9MS/7200	4096K	3.5"/1"H	$209
WD91FN 50PIN	9100	6.6MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$184
WD91FG	9100	6.6MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$184
WD183FN 50PIN	18300	6.6MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$269
WD183FG	18300	6.6MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$269

Seagate

www.seagate.com

ALL SEAGATE SCSI DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 5YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
ST34520N	4500	10 MS/7200	512K	3.5"/1"H	$192
ST34520W	4500	10 MS/7200	512K	3.5"/1"H	$192
ST39140N	9100	10 MS/7200	512K	3.5"/1"H	$247
ST39140W	9100	10 MS/7200	512K	3.5"/1"H	$247
ST39236LW	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$229
ST39216W	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$229
ST39216N	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$229
ST318275LW	18200	7.6MS/7200	1024K	3.5"/FH	$359
ST318275FC	18200	7.6MS/7200	1024K	3.5"/FH	$359
ST318416N	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$334
ST318416W	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$334
ST318436LW	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$344
ST318404LW	18400	5.2MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$482
ST136475LW	36400	7.6MS/7200	1024K	3.5"/FH	$764
ST136403LW	36400	5.2MS/10,000	1024K	3.5"/FH	$867
ST136403FC	36400	5.2MS/10,000	1024K	3.5"/FH	$867
ST336704LW	36700	5.2MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$909
ST150176LW	50000	7.4MS/7200	1024K	3.5"/FH	$864
ST150176FC	50000	7.4MS/7200	1024K	3.5"/FH	$864
ST173404LW	73400	5.6MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$1499

Quantum

www.quantum.com

ALL QUANTUM SCSI DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 5YR WARRANTY.

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
QUTN318200LW	18200	5MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$529
QUAL336400LW	36400	6.9MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$809
QUTN336400LW	36400	5MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$969

CD/CDRW/DVD

TOSHIBA www.toshiba.com

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
TO6702B	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	256K	$51
TO6401	40X/6000KB	SCSI-2	85MS	256K	$79
TODM1402BARE	12X-40X DVD	ATAPI	135/90MS	256K	$159

MITSUMI

www.mitsumi.com

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
MITFX4820	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	$44
MITCDRW4804TE	4X/4X/24X	ATAPI	135MS	2048K	$162

YAMAHA

www.yamaha.com

MODEL#	W/RW/READ	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
YACRW8424SOEM	8X/4X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	$224
YACRW8424EOEM	8X/4X/24X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	$224
YACRW8424E	8X/4X/24X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	$239
YACRW8424S	8X/4X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	$259

SONY

MODEL#	W/RW/READ	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
SY48XIDE	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	$42
SYCRX140E/CH	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$242
SYCRX140S/CH	8X/4X/32X	SCSI	150MS	4096K	$229
SYCRX145E/CH	10X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$269

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3Com www.3com.com

3C3595	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/WIN	$27
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3C2975	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/NO VOICE	$32
3C2974	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/VOICE	$33
3C2977	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/NON WIN	$46
3C2976	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/NON WIN	$57

CREATIVE www.creative.com

CLDI5655	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 VOICE	$26
CLDI5660	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 NON WIN	$26

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VIG653	15"	.28DP	1280 X 1024	$187
VIM50	15"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$172
VIGA655	15"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$207
VIE771	17"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$214
VIG773	17"	.26DP	1280 X 1024	$284
VIGS771	17"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$287
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VIGT775	17"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$339
VIGA771	17"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	W/SPEAKERS $369
VIPT775	17"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$449
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VIPS790	19"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$487
VIG790	19"	.26DP	1600 X 1280	$489
VIPF790	19"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$462
VIG810	21"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$764
VIP810	21"	.25DP	1600 X 1200	$839
VIP815	21"	.25DP	1800 X 1440	$879
VIMB110	21"	.26DP	1600 X 1280	W/SPEAKERS $939
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VIVPD150	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE 1024 X 768			$1169
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RETE555	15"	.28DP	1280 X 1024	$129
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RETE786	17"	.26DP	1280 X 1024	$202
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Gigabyte GA-BX 2000	66/100	Intel BX	No	Yes	700PIII/500 Celeron	1024	33	2/5/2	No/ No	No No	L450-4025	$124.99
PowerUp 7112C	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	Yes	Yes	733PIII/500 Celeron	768	66	1/4/2	No/Opt.	Yes/No	MB2-MS7112C	$84.99
PowerUp 741LMRT	66/100	SiS620	Yes	Yes	600PIII/500 Celeron	768	33	0/1/1	Opt./Opt.	Yes/AGP	MB2-741	$84.99
PowerUp 748LMRT	66/100	SiS620	Yes	Yes	700PIII/500 Celeron	768	33	0/1/1	Opt./Opt.	Yes/AGP	MB2-748	$84.99
Pine BA-1	66/100	Intel BX	No	Yes	700PIII/500 Celeron	768	33	1/4/3	No/ No	No/No	P450-3000	$89.99
Pine BA-1D	66/100	Intel BX	No	Dual	700PIII/500 Celeron	1024	33	1/5/2	No/ No	No/No	P450-4000	$169.99
Pine SB1-A	66/100	SiS 5600	No	Yes	600PIII/500 Celeron	768	33	0/3/2	No/ No	Yes/No	P450-2000	$69.99
Pine SM3-AV	66/100	SiS 620	Yes	No	800EPIII/500 Celeron	768	66	0/3/1	No/ No	Yes/Yes	P450-1030	$84.99
Pine ZA-1	66/100	Intel ZX	No	Yes	600PIII/500 Celeron	256	33	1/4/3	No/ No	No/No	P450-1000	$84.99
Pine ZA-3	66/100	Intel ZX	Yes	No	500 Celeron	512	33	1/4/3	No/ No	No/No	P450-1002	$84.99
Pine SB3-AV	66/100	SiS620	Yes	No	500 Celeron	768	66	0/3/2	No/ No	Yes/AGP	P450-1025	$79.99
FIC KA-6110	66/133	Via Apollo 133	Yes	Yes	733PIII/400 Celeron	768	66	1/5/2	No/ No	No/No	L450-1020	$89.99
FIC VB-601	66/100	Intel BX	Yes	Yes	700PIII/400 Celeron	768	33	1/5/2	No/ No	No/No	L450-1010	$89.99
Abit BE6 II	66/100	Intel BX	No	Yes	600PIII/500 Celeron	768	66	1/5/2	No/ No	No/No	L450-2005	$90.99
Abit VA6	66/100	Via 693A	No	Yes	733PIII/500 Celeron	768	66	1/5/1	No/ No	No/No	L450-2001	$140.99
Soyo SY-6VCA	66/100/133	Via 694X	No	Yes	800PIII/600 Celeron	1536	66	1/5/1	No/ No	Yes/No	S450-1011	$116.99
Soyo SY-6VBA 133	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	No	Yes	733PIII/500 Celeron	1024	66	1/5/2	No/ No	No/No	S450-1010	$92.99
Soyo SY-6BA-IV	66/100	Intel BX	No	Yes	700PIII/500 Celeron	1024	66	1/5/2	No/ No	No/No	S450-1015	$140.99
Soyo SY-6BA-III	66/100	Intel BX	No	Yes	600PIII/500 Celeron	1024	33	1/5/2	No/ No	No/No	S450-1014	$116.99
Soyo SY-6IWM	66/100/133	Intel 810	No	Yes	733PIII/500 Celeron	768	66	0/3/0	No/ No	No/No	S450-1020	$128.99
Soyo SY-7VCM	66/100/133	Via 694X	Yes	No	800PIII/600 Celeron	1024	66	1/3/0	No/ No	Yes/No	S450-1055	$114.99
Soyo SY-7VCA	66/100/133	Via 694X	Yes	No	800PIII/600 Celeron	1536	66	1/5/1	No/ No	Yes/ No	S450-1050	$119.99
FIC KA-11	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	No	Yes	733PIII/533 Celeron	1024	66	1/5/2	No/ No	No/ No	L450-1025	$109.99
Gigabyte GA-6BXD	66/100	Intel BX	No	Yes	700PIII/500 Celeron	1024	33	1/5/2	No/ No	No/ No	L450-4030	$176.99
Gigabyte GA-6VXE+	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	No	Yes	733PIII/500 Celeron	768	66	1/5/2	No/ No	No/ No	L450-4020	$98.99
Powerup IN810S	66/100	Intel 810	No	Yes	800PIII/500 Celeron	512	66	0/3/0	No/ No	Yes/Yes	MB2-IN810	$69.99
PowerUp P2XBL	66/100	Intel BX	No	Yes	700PIII/500 Celeron	768	33	1/4/3	No/ No	No/ No	MB2-P2XBL	$64.99

Socket 7 Motherboard Comparison

SOYO PowerUp! FIC GIGABYTE

Motherboard	Chipset	Supported Bus Speed	UDMA 33/66	Cache	Max. CPU Supported	Memory SIMM/DIMM	AGP/PCI/ISA Slots	On-board LAN/Modem	On-board Sound/Video	Item # Price	QTY 1-2
PowerUp M-598LMR	SiS 530	66/75/83/95/100	33	1MB Cache	500MHz	0/768	0/2/1	Opt/Opt	Yes/AGP	MB2-598LMR	$82.99
PowerUp MS-599LMR	SiS 530	66/75/83/95/100	33	512KB Cache	500MHz	0/768	0/2/1	Opt/Opt	Yes/AGP	MB2-599LMR	$82.99
Soyo 5EMA+	ETEQ 6629	66/75/83/90/95/100	33	1MB Cache	500MHz	0/768	1/5/2	No/No	No	S450-1035	$75.99
PowerUp M-571LMR	TX Pro II	60/66/75	33	512KB Cache	366MHz	0/512	0/3/2	Opt/Opt	Yes/Yes	MB2-571LMR	$69.99
FIC PAG-2130	VIA MVP4	66/75/83/95/100	66	512KB Cache	550MHz	0/768	0/4/1	No/No	Yes/AGP	MB2-PAG2130	$92.99
FIC VA7-AV	Via MVP4	66/75/83/95/100	66	512KB Cache	550MHz	0/768	0/5/2	No/No	Yes/AGP	P450-5000	$89.99
FIC VA-503+	Via MVP3	66/75/83/95/100	33	1MB Cache	500MHz	512/512	1/3/3	No/No	No	L450-1000	$86.99
Soyo SY-5SSM-5	SiS530	66/75/83/95/100	66	512KB Cache	550MHz	0/768	0/4/1	No/No	Yes/AGP	S450-1040	$88.99
Soyo SY-5EH/5	ETEQ 6639	66/75/83/95/100	33	512KB Cache	500MHz	0/768	1/3/3	No/No	No/No	S450-1045	$77.99
Gigabyte GA-5AA	Aladdin V	66/75/83/95/100	66	512KB Cache	550MHz	0/768	1/3/2	No/No	No/No	L450-4000	$85.99
Gigabyte GA-5AX	Aladdin V	66/75/83/95/100	66	512KB Cache	550MHz	0/768	1/5/2	No/No	No/No	L450-4010	$86.99

Hard Drives

	Item #	Capacity	Seek Time	Trans. Rate	RPM	Buffer	Warranty	Price 1-2	Price 3-5	Price 6+	Cable
Maxtor	THD-10M	10.2GB	9ms	66.6MB/s	5400	512KB	3 yrs	$99.99	$99.99	$99.99	●●
	THD-15M	15.3GB	9ms	66.6MB/s	5400	512KB	3 yrs	$119.99	$119.99	$119.99	●●
	THD-20M	20.4GB	9ms	66.6MB/s	5400	512KB	3 yrs	$139.99	$139.99	$139.99	●●
	THD-30M	30.7GB	9ms	66.6MB/s	7200	2MB	3 yrs	$189.99	$189.99	$189.99	●●
	THD-40M	40.9GB	9ms	66.6MB/s	7200	2MB	3 yrs	$226.99	$226.99	$226.99	●●
Western Digital	THD-6B	6.4GB	9.5ms	66.6MB/s	5400	2MB	3 yrs	$99.99	$96.99	$93.99	●●
	THD-8B	8.4GB	9.5ms	66.6MB/s	5400	2MB	3 yrs	$109.99	$107.99	$104.99	●●
	THD-10B	10.2GB	9.5ms	66.6MB/s	5400	2MB	3 yrs	$119.99	$116.99	$113.99	●●
	THD-13B	13.6GB	9.5ms	66.6MB/s	5400	2MB	3 yrs	$129.99	$126.99	$119.99	●●
Seagate	THD-1C	1.7GB	12.5ms	33.3MB/s	4500	N\A	1 yr	$69.99	$69.99	$69.99	❶
	THD-43A	4.3GB	9ms	33.3MB/s	5400	128KB	3 yrs	$79.99	$79.99	$79.99	●
	THD-84A	8.4GB	9ms	66.6MB/s	5400	256KB	3 yrs	$99.99	$96.99	$93.99	●●
	THD-13A	13GB	9ms	66.6MB/s	5400	512KB	3 yrs	$119.99	$119.99	$119.99	●●
Quantum	THD-102C	10.2GB	8.5ms	66.6MB/s	5400	512KB	3 yrs	$114.99	$112.99	$109.99	●●
	THD-13C	13GB	8.5ms	66.6MB/s	5400	512KB	3 yrs	$119.99	$119.99	$119.99	●●
	THD-15C	15GB	9.5ms	66.6MB/s	5400	512KB	3 yrs	$124.99	$122.99	$119.99	●●
	THD-20C	20GB	8.5ms	66.6MB/s	5400	512KB	3 yrs	$149.99	$143.99	$138.99	●●
Western Digital	THD-10BB	10.2GB	8.5ms	66.6MB/s	7200	2MB	3 yrs	$139.99	$134.99	$129.99	●●
	THD-15BB	15GB	8.5ms	66.6MB/s	7200	2MB	3 yrs	$159.99	$156.99	$149.99	●●
	THD-20BB	20.5GB	8.5ms	66.6MB/s	7200	2MB	3 yrs	$189.99	$184.99	$177.99	●●

❶ *TC1-10000 IDE Ribbon And Floppy Cable $ 2.99ea.* ● *TC1-13000 Ultra ATA/66 Cable 18" $12.99ea.* ● *S94-2006 Ultra ATA/66 PCI Controller Card $46.99ea.*

CD-R Media SALE!

Item #	Description	Price Each
TC1-4250	Jewel Cased 10 pack	$6.99
TC1-4251	Spindle 50 pack	$34.99
TC1-4252	Spindle 100 pack	$69.99

Zip Media SALE!

Item #	Description	Price Each
TC1-6150	Zip 100MB Disk Single	$9.99
TC1-6151	Zip 100MB Disk 3-Pack	$26.99
TC1-6152	Zip 100MB Disk 5-Pack	$44.99
TC1-6153	Zip 100MB Disk 10-Pack	$89.99
TC1-6154	Zip 250MB Disk 4-Pack	$69.99

Floppy Disk SALE!

Item #	Description	Price Each
TC1-6050	Floppy Disk 50 pack	$14.99
TC1-6051	Floppy Disk 100 pack	$19.99

LS-120 SuperDisk!

			Price Per Disk
TC1-6250	120MB Disks 3-pack	$34.99	
	After $5 Mail-in Rebate	$29.99	$9.99
TC1-6251	120MB Disks 5-pack	$59.99	
	After $10 Mail-in Rebate	$49.99	$9.99
TC1-6252	120MB Disks 10-pack	$99.99	
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CP2-K62-500	AMD K6-2/500 3DNow! (100MHz Bus)	$59.99
CP2-K62-550	AMD K6-2/550 3DNow! (100MHz Bus)	$89.99
CP2-K63-350	AMD K6-3/350 3DNow! (100MHz Bus)	$39.99

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Athlon

CP2-K7-650	Athlon CPU 650MHz	$179.99
CP2-K7-700	Athlon CPU 700MHz	$214.99
CP2-K7-750	Athlon CPU 750MHz	$269.99
CP2-K7-800	Athlon CPU 800MHz	$364.99
CP2-K7-850	Athlon CPU 850MHz	$484.99
CP2-K7-900	Athlon CPU 900MHz	$669.99
A216-1012	Cooling Fan for Athlon	$8.99
A216-1022	Cooling Fan for Athlon 900MHz	$9.99

Pentium, Celeron, Pentium II, Pentium III

FROM $46.99

		Price Each
Intel Pentium Processors		
CP2-P233	Pentium 233 (Socket 7-PC66 Bus)	$46.99
Intel Celeron Processors		
CP2-CI500	Intel Celeron 500 processor (Socket 370)	$92.99
CP2-CI533	Intel Celeron 533 processor (Socket 370)	$124.99
CP2-CI600	Intel Celeron 600 processor (Socket 370)	$174.99
Intel Pentium II & III Processors		
CP2-P2-450	Intel Pentium II 450 processor (Slot 1)	$159.99
CP2-P3-450	Intel Pentium III 450 processor	$199.99
CP2-P3-550	Intel Pentium III 550 processor	$229.99
CP2-P3-600	Intel Pentium III 600 processor *FROM*	$259.99
CP2-P3-667B	Intel Pentium III 667EB processor (Slot 1)	$376.99
CP2-P3-667F	Intel Pentium III 667EB processor (FCPGA)	$312.99
CP2-P3-733B	Intel Pentium III 733EB processor (Slot 1)	$594.99
CP2-P3-733F	Intel Pentium III 733EB processor (FCPGA)	$439.99
CP2-P3-800F	Intel Pentium III 800EB processor (FCPGA)	$664.99

Cooling Fans

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FROM $3.49

Item #	Description	1-2	3-5	6 + Units
A216-1010	Socket 7 Fan	$4.99	$3.99	$3.49
A216-1010	Celeron Cooling Fan (PPGA)	$4.99	$3.99	$3.49
	Free Gel With Purchase			

Item #	Description	1-2	3-5	6 + Units
A216-1002	Slot 1 PIII Cool Fan	$5.99	$5.49	$4.99
A216-1020	PIII (FCPGA) Cool Fan	$5.99	$5.49	$4.99
TC1-2035	Pentium FCPGA & Celeron To Slot 1 Adapter	$8.99	$7.49	$7.49

Sorry, but as prices are changing on CPUs, we do not offer price protection. [illegible] rise and fall. No returns accepted on CPUs. CPUs come with a 90 day depot warranty. For Quantity Pricing Please Call 888-736-4672

CD-ROM/DVD Drives

FROM $36.99

Item #	Description	1-2 Units	3-5 Units	6 Units or more
TC1-4021	48X CD-ROM†	$39.99	$37.99	$36.99
TC1-4025	50X CD-ROM†	$44.99	$42.99	$39.99
TC1-4200	4x4x24x CD-RW	$199.99		
TC1-4115	10X DVD-ROM†	$149.99	$145.99	$139.99

† CD-ROM speeds are variable, maximum speeds shown.

Yamaha CD-RW Drives

Item #	Description	Price Each
Y23-2020	CRW 8424EZ-Int EIDE	$249.99
Y23-2018	CRW 8424SZ-Int SCSI	$289.99
Y23-2022	CRW 8424SXZ-Ext SCSI	$399.99
Y23-2024	10 Pack CDR Media (12x Compatible)	$13.99
Y23-2012	3 Pack CDRW Media (4x Compatible)	$9.99

Zip & Floppy Drives

FROM $47.99

Zip drives are the standard in high capacity storage. Choose from the 100MB or new super-fast 250MB internal drives. They connect to any IDE system.

Item #	Description	1-2 Units	3-5 Units	6 Units or more
TC1-6101	100MB Zip Drive	$49.99	$48.99	$47.99
TC1-6105	250MB Zip Drive	$136.99	$132.99	$129.99
TC1-6200	LS-120 Drive	$59.99	$57.99	$54.99
TC1-6000	3.5" Floppy Beige	$17.99	$16.99	$15.99

Power Protection

Kensington 6 Outlet Surge Protector With RJ11 Telephone Protection

FROM $7.99

• 6 Outlets • 2 RJ-11 Ports • 520 Joules • 6 ft' Cord • Warning Light • 15 Amp Circuit Breaker • $25,000 Equipment Warranty

Item #	Description	1-2 Units	3-5 Units	6 Units or more
TC1-8400	Kensington 6-Outlet Surge Protector	$9.99	$8.99	$7.99
R600-1000	PowerUp 325VA UPS	$64.99	$62.99	$59.99

PCI 56K[1] Fax Modem

- v.90 protocol
- Speakerphone
- Plug & Play
- Windows ATAPI compliant

FROM $19.99

Item #	Description	1-2	3-5	6+
TC1-5505	PCI 56K' w/o voice	$24.99	$22.99	$19.99
TC1-5510	AMR 56K' Modem	$26.99	$24.99	$22.99
TC1-5501	PCI 56K' w/ voice	$28.99	$26.99	$24.99
TC1-5502	ISA 56K' Hardware	$49.99	$46.99	$42.99

[1]Actual speeds may vary; capable of 56Kbps but due to FCC regulations download speeds limited to 53Kbps.

Amplified Speakers

Item #	Description	1-2 Units	3-5 Units	6 units or more
TC1-3001	Self-Amplified	$9.99	$7.99	$6.99
TC1-3005	3-Piece Multimedia Speakers w/subwoofer	$29.99	$27.99	$25.99

Keyboards & Mice

FROM $4.99

Item #	Description	1-2 Units	3-5 Units	6 Units or more
TC1-2003	Scrolling Wheel Mouse	$9.99	$7.99	$6.99
TC1-2002	Two Button Mouse	$6.99	$5.99	$4.99
TC1-2010	Wireless Scrolling Mouse	$19.99	$18.99	$16.99
TC1-2105	MousePad	$1.99	$1.79	$1.69
TC1-2100	Calculator MousePad	$4.99	$4.99	$4.99
TC1-1000	104 Keyboard	$9.99	$8.99	$8.49
TC1-1005	108 Keyboard	$7.99	$6.99	$5.99
TC1-1010	*Multifunction Keyboard*	$16.99	$15.99	$14.99

NIC & Sound Cards

10/100 Network Interface

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128-Voice Sound Cards

Item #	Description	1-2 Units	3-5 Units	6 units or more
TC1-9002	10/100 NIC	$12.99	$11.99	$9.99
TC1-5001	ISA Sound Card	$12.99	$11.99	$9.99
TC1-5100	*PCI Sound Card*	$19.99	$17.99	$16.99

Video Cards

FROM $8.99

Item #	Description	1-2 Units	3-5 Units	6 Units or more
TC1-7102	PCI 2MB Card	$10.99	$9.99	$8.99
TC1-7101	3D PCI 4MB Card	$26.99	$25.99	$24.99
TC1-7105	3D PCI 8MB Card	$36.99	$35.99	$33.99
TC1-7010	SiS 4MB AGP Card	$26.99	$24.99	$22.99
TC1-7000	SiS 8MB AGP Card	$36.99	$34.99	$32.99
TC1-7211	Savage 16MB AGP Card	$49.99	$47.99	$45.99
TC1-7210	Savage 32MB AGP Card	$76.99	$74.99	$72.99
TC1-7201	Vanta 16MB AGP Card	$59.99	$56.99	$54.99
TC1-7202	TNT II 32MB AGP Card	$79.99	$76.99	$73.99

MEMORY SALE!

Item #	Description	Prices 1-2	Prices 3-5	Prices 6 or more
TC1-MEM-32	32MB 168-Pin PC100 SDRAM	$35.99	$34.99	$33.99
TC1-MEM-64	64MB 168-Pin PC100 SDRAM	$62.99	$61.99	$59.99
TC1-MEM-128	128MB 168-Pin PC100 SDRAM	$124.99	$120.99	$116.99

Note: *In order to bring you these low prices on premium bulk memory, we have negotiated returns for defective exchange only and a 20% restocking charge on all returns with our memory vendor. We will pass these policies on to all retail sales of bulk memory.*

Prices subject to change.

USB Cables SALE!

Item #	Description	Price Each
TC1-9150	USB A-B Cable 3ft'	$4.99
TC1-9151	USB A-B Cable 6ft'	$5.99
TC1-9152	USB A-B Cable 10ft'	$8.99
TC1-9153	USB A-B Cable 15ft'	$12.99

Printer Cable SALE!

Item #	Description	Price Each
TC1-10507	Standard Printer Cable 6ft'	$5.99
TC1-10502	IEEE A-A 10ft' DB25 to DB25	$18.99
TC1-10503	IEEE A-A 6ft' DB25 to DB25	$14.99
TC1-10504	IEEE A-B 10ft' Std. Printer	$16.99
TC1-10506	IEEE A-B 6ft' Std. Printer	$12.99

Hard Drive Cable SALE!

Item #	Description	Price Each
TC1-10000	Dual IDE Ribbon & Floppy	$2.99
TC1-13001	Ultra ATA\66 24" Hard Drive Cable	$19.99
TC1-13002	Ultra ATA\66 PCI Controller Card	$49.99

Network Cables

Item #	Description	Price Each
TC1-9050	Snagless CAT 5 - 3' Black	$3.99
TC1-9051	Snagless CAT 5 - 7' Black	$4.99
TC1-9053	Snagless CAT 5 - 14' Black	$6.99
TC1-9054	Snagless CAT 5 - 25' Black	$9.99

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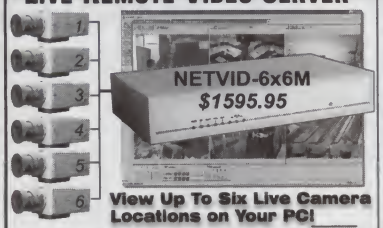

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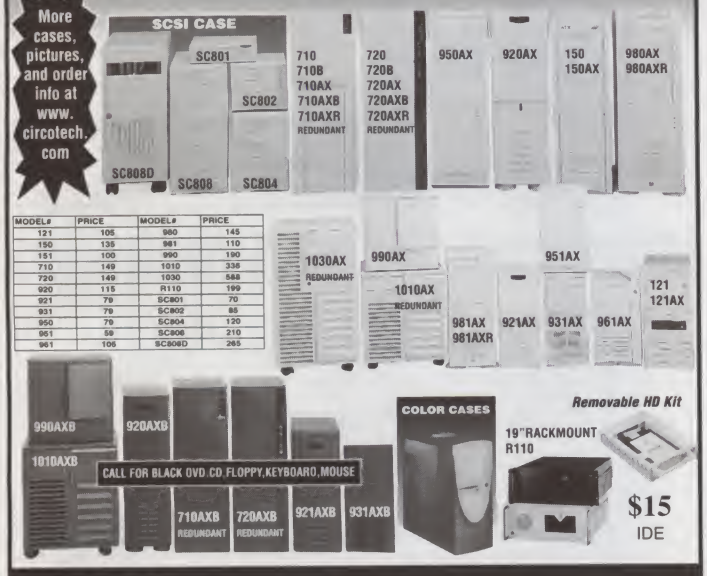

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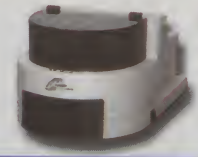

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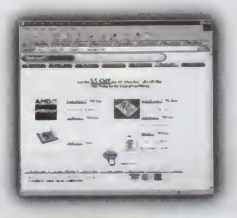

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20.4GB	512k	5400	QML20400LA	$139
20.5GB	2MB	7200	QMP20500LM	$165
30.0GB	512k	5400	QML30000LA	$209
30.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP30000LM	$250
SCA & SCA ULTRA-2 Single Connector Attachment				
9.1GB	4MB	7200	XC309100SCA	$233
9.1GB	2MB	10,000	TN309100SCA	$333
18.3GB	4MB	7200	XC318400SCA	$349
18.2GB	2MB	10,000	TN318200SCA	$542
36.4GB	2MB	10,000	TN336400SCA	$935
36.4GB	4MB	7200	XC336400SCA	$719
ULTRA 160 SCSI (160 MB/sec)				
9.1GB	4MB	7200	XC309100LW	$233
9.1GB	2MB	10,000	TN309100LW	$333
18.2GB	4MB	7200	XC318400LW	$349
18.2GB	2MB	10,000	TN318200LW	$542
36.4GB	2MB	10,000	TN336400LW	$935
36.4GB	4MB	7200	XC336400LW	$719

IBM (dirtcheapdrives.com/ibm)

ULTRA ATA-66 IDE				
30.7GB	2MB	7200	07N3929	$269
46.1GB	2MB	7200	07N3931	$343
61.4GB	2MB	7200	07N3933	$459
76.8GB	2MB	7200	07N3935	$572
ULTRA SCSI				
9.1GB	2MB	7200	IBM309170N	$219
18.2GB	2MB	7200	IBM318350N	$313
ULTRA WIDE SCSI				
9.1GB	2MB	7200	IBM309170W	$219
18.2GB	2MB	7200	IBM318350W	$313
ULTRA-2 SCSI (80MB/sec)				
9.1GB	2MB	7200	IBM309170U2	$219
18.2GB	2MB	7200	IBM318350U2	$313
ULTRA 160 (160MB/sec)				
9.1GB	4MB	7200	07N3120	$245
9.1GB	4MB	10,000	07N3220	$334
18.2GB	4MB	7200	07N3110	$359
18.3GB	4MB	10,000	07N3210	$499
36.4GB	4MB	7200	07N3100	$717
36.9GB	4MB	10,000	07N3200	$865

HARD DRIVES

Seagate (dirtcheapdrives.com/sea

ULTRA ATA/66 IDE Ultra ATA-66 PCI controller $35 w/ drive (ULTRA66)				
4.3GB	256k	5400	ST34313A	$79
8.4GB	256k	5400	ST38410A	$93
10.2GB	512k	5400	ST310212A	$101
13.0GB	512k	5400	ST313021A	$114
15.3GB	512k	5400	ST315323A	$123
15.3GB	2MB	7200	ST315320A	$153
17.2GB	512k	5400	ST317221A	$129
20.4GB	2MB	7200	ST320420A	$172
20.4GB	512k	5400	ST320423A	$134
30.6GB	2MB	7200	ST330630A	$219
ULTRA SCSI				
9.2GB	2MB	7200	ST39216N	$231
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318416N	$338
ULTRA Wide SCSI				
9.2GB	2MB	7200	ST39216W	$231
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318416W	$338
Ultra 160 SCSI (up to 160MB/sec)				
9.2GB	2MB	7200	ST39236LW	$231
9.2GB	4MB	7200	ST39236LWV	$246
9.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST39204LW	$341
18.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST318404LW	$507
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318436LW	$339
18.4GB	4MB	7200	ST318436LWV	$352
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336704LW	**$879**
36.7GB	16MB	10,000	ST336704LWV	$915
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST173404LW	$1559
73.4GB	16MB	10,000	ST173404LWV	$1579
SCA & SCA 160 (Single Connector Attachment)				
9.2GB	2MB	7200	ST39236LC	$231
9.2GB	4MB	7200	ST39236LCV	$246
9.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST39204LC	$341
18.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST318404LC	$507
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318436LC	$339
18.4GB	4MB	7200	ST318436LCV	$352
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336704LC	**$879**
36.7GB	16MB	10,000	ST336704LCV	$915
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST173404LC	$1559
73.4GB	16MB	10,000	ST173404LCV	$1579
FC-AL Fibre Channel 160 (Arbitrated Loop)				
9.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST39204FC	$341
18.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST318404FC	$507
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336704FC	**$879**
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST173404FC	$1559

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8.4GB	512k	5400	WDAC84AA	$94
10.2GB	512k	5400	WDAC102AA	$104
13.0GB	512k	5400	WDAC136AA	$119
15.3GB	2MB	7200	WDAC153BA	$141
20.5GB	512k	5400	WDAC205AA	$143
20.5GB	2MB	7200	WDAC205BA	$171
30.0GB	512k	5400	WDAC307AA	$209
40.5GB	512k	5400	WDAC405AA	$282

Maxtor (dirtcheapdrives.com/max)

ULTRA ATA-66 IDE Ultra ATA-66 PCI controller $35 w/ drive (ULTRA66)				
10.2GB	512k	5400	M91021U2	$99
15.3GB	512k	5400	M91531U3	$119
20.0GB	2MB	7200	M52049U4	$164
20.4GB	512k	5400	M92041U4	$133
30.0GB	2MB	7200	M53073U6	$205
40.0GB	2MB	5400	M94098U8	$237
40.0GB	2MB	7200	M54098U8	$270
61.4GB	2MB	5400	M96147U8	$359

LAPTOP DRIVES

TOSHIBA

Capacity	Height	RPM	Model	Price
4.3GB	8.45mm	4200	MK4313MAT	$130
6.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK6014MAP	$145
12.1GB	9.5mm	4200	MK1214GAP	$235
18.1GB	12.5mm	4200	MK1814GAV	$363

IBM

Capacity	Height	RPM	Model	Price
6.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DA206000	$175
12.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DA212000	$250
18.1GB	12.5mm	4200	DA218000	$369
25.3GB	17mm	5411	DA225000	$529

HITACHI

Capacity	Height	RPM	Model	Price
6.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DK32AA-60	$142
12.0GB	12.7mm	4200	DK23AA-12	$209

LAPTOP ACCESSORIES

Diskmanager partitioning software (DISKMANAGER)	$12
2.5" IDE to 3.5" adapter kit (IDEKIT-2.5)	$15
2.5" SCSI to 3.5" adapter kit (SCSIKIT-2.5)	$15
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PCMCIA external drive case for 2.5"IDE (PCMCIA2.5)	$119
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Reads DVD-ROM, DVD-R, CD-R & CD-RW disks.
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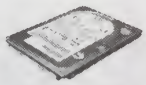
LAPTOP DRIVE

IBM



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TR4 4-8gig (STT28000A)	**$195**	**$325**	**$25**(TR4)
TR5 10-20gig (STT220000A)	**$259**	**$389**	**$43**(TR5)
SCSI	*Int.*	*Ext.*	*Extra Tapes*
TR4 4-8gig (STT28000N)	**$225**	**$295**	**$25**(TR4)
SCSI RCVT Includes NT & Netware server software only. Features hardware data compression.			
TR4 4-8gig (STT28000NC)	**$349**	**$439**	**$25**(TR4)
TR5 10-20gig (STT220000N)	**$459**	**$549**	**$43**(TR5)

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Minicartridge
Includes 1 FREE tape, manual, , DOS/Win backup software

SCSI	Int.	Ext.	Extra Tapes
TR5 10-20gig (C4394A)	**$385**	**$475**	**$43**(TR5)

Exabyte

7-14Gig	8mm,120MB/min, ELIANT820	$1159	$12 (DAT160M8MM)
20-40Gig	8mm,360MB/min, EXB8900	$1999	$80 (AME170)
140-280Gig	8mm, 180MB/min, EZ17SWK	$4399	$12 (DAT160M8MM)

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We include 5.25" mounting hardware with HP DAT!

4-8Gig	DDS-2, 60MB/min, C1599AI	$525	$9 (DAT120M)
12-24Gig	DDS-3, 120MB/min, C1554AI	$709	$20 (DAT125M)
20-40Gig	DDS-4, 180MB/min, C5686A	$1149	$45 (DAT150M)
72-144Gig	DDS-3, 120MB/min, C5648A	$1979	$20 (DAT125M)

Seagate

We include 5.25" mounting hardware with Seagate DAT!

2-4Gig	DAT-DC,66MB/min,STD24000N	$419	$8 (DAT90M)
4Gig	Mini, 30MB/min,STT28000N	$225	$24 (TRA)
4-8Gig	Mini, 60MB/min,STT28000NC	$349	$24 (TR4)
4-8Gig	DDS-2 DAT, 66MB/min, STD28000N	$499	$9 (DAT120M)
10-20Gig	Mini, 100MB/min,STT2200BARE	$279	$41 (TR5)
20-40Gig	DDS-4 DAT, 330MB/min, STD2401LW	$919	$45 (DAT150M)
12-24Gig	DDS-3 DAT, 132MB/min, STD224000N	$689	$9 (DAT120M)
35-70Gig	AIT,360MB/min, STA2701W	$1759	$150 (STAE70)
48-96Gig	DDS-2 DAT, 66MB/min, STL496000N	$2039	$20 (DAT125M)

TAPE BACKUP

SONY

We include 5.25" mounting hardware with Sony DAT!

4-8Gig	DDS-2 DAT, 90MB/min, SDT7000AI	$519	$9 (DAT120M)
12-24Gig	DDS-3 DAT, 144MB/min, SDT9000AI	$679	$20 (DAT125M)
20-40Gig	DDS-4 DAT, 288MB/min, SDT11000AI	$969	$45 (DAT150M)
160-320Gig	DDS-4 DATloader, 840MB/min, TSL-S11000	$2559	$45 (DAT150M)

Quantum

Get a DLT4 tape for only $65 when purchased with drive.

20-40Gig	DLT,180MB/min, DLT4000	$1350	$65 (DLT4)
	External, our case, DLT4000X	$1450	$65 (DLT4)
	External, Quantum case, DLT4000QX	$1550	$65 (DLT4)
35-70Gig	DLT, 600MB/min,DLT7000	$3759	$65 (DLT4)
	External, our case, DLT7000X	$3859	$65 (DLT4)
	External, Quantum case, DLT7000QX	$3959	$65 (DLT4)
40-80Gig	DLT, 600MB/min,DLT8000	$3879	$65 (DLT4)
	External, our case, DLT8000X	$3979	$65 (DLT4)
	External, Quantum case, DLT8000QX	$4079	$65 (DLT4)

DLT MEDIA SALE	1-4	5-9	10-49	50+
DLTIII 10-20GB (DLT3)	$36	$34	$32	$30
DLTIII XT 15-30GB (DLT3XT)	$39	$36	$34	$33
DLTIV 20-40GB (DLT4)	$69	$67	$65	$64
DLT Cleaning tape (DLTCLEAN)	$40	$39	$36	$35

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New Advanced Digital Recording (ADR) tape drives offer an excellent value. These drives store 15GB native or up to 30GB of compressed data. And they include awesome backup software. It even includes a "drag and drop" software that allows you to use this drive as a standard disk drive under Windows.

15-30GB internal IDE w/software (OS3OIDE)	$275
15-30GB internal SCSI w/software (OS3OSCSI)	$435
25-50GB internal SCSI w/software (OS5OSCSI)	$515
Tapes for above 15-30 (ADR30) / 25-50 (ADR50)	$35/$45

SONY AIT Tape Drive

25-50GB	AIT Internal	(SDX-300CI)	**$1595**
25-50GB	AIT External	(SDX-S300C)	**$1999**
50-100GB	AIT-2 Internal	(SDX-500CI)	**$2929**
50-100GB	AIT-2 External	(SDX-S500C)	**$3369**

AIT Media

35GB (SDX135C)	1-4 **$89**	5-9 **$87**	10-49 **$85**	50+ **$80**
50GB (SDX250C)	1-4 **$129**	5-9 **$125**	10-49 **$120**	50+ **$115**

BACKUP SOFTWARE

Seagate (formerly Veritas) (formerly Seagate) Backup Exec

Windows 95 & 98 (SBEWDWD)	$69
Windows NT workstation (SBENTWD)	$69
Windows NT single server (SBENTSE)	$419
Windows NT multi server (SBENTME)	$879
Windows NT/2000 Exchange Server Agent (SBENTEX006)	$495
Windows NT/2000 SQL Agt E/F/G/S/I (SBENTSQ0007)	$565
Windows NT/2000 Server En (SBENTSR0000)	$569
Small Business Server Suite (SBENTSB)	$429
Netware single server & unlimited users (SBENWSE)	$449
Netware multi server (SBENWME)	$829

NovaStor

NovaBack CD contains backup software for DOS, Win 3.1, Windows 95, Win NT, and OS/2 Compatible with SCSI, IDE, and QIC drives (19801)	$55
NovaBackup for Windows NT/2000	
Server (29801)	$125
Workstation (29821)	$59
NovaNet 8 for Windows	
SE for Windows NT/2000 (79210)	$299
Single Server for NT/2000 (79230)	$415
Unlimited for NT/2000 (79250)	$715
NovaNet 8 for NetWare	
SE (79310)	$319
Single Server for NetWare 25 User (79320)	$339
Single Server for NetWare 1000 User (79330)	$419
Unlimited for NetWare 25 User (79340)	$589
Unlimited for NetWare 1000 User (79350)	$689

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18GB	$507	$507	$338/$338	$339
36GB	$879	$879		
73GB	$1559	$1559		

	TRAVAN ATAPI	TRAVAN SCSI
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Internal (T6-5200) /External (T6-5200X)	$1399/$1539
Maxoptix 5.2 Media 1-4/5-9/10+ (MAX5.2)	$83/$80/$77

SONY 5.2GB

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Sony 5.2 Media 1-4/5-9/10+ (SMAX5.2)	$83/$80/$77

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230MB	TJ230MAC	Mac formatted	$14	$10	$8
640MB	TJ640	3.5", 2048K	$21	$17	$15
650MB	TJ650	5.25", 1024K	$25	$23	$21
1.2Gig	TJ1.2	5.25", 512K	$25	$23	$21
1.3Gig	TJ1.3	5.25", 1024K	$26	$24	$22
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5.2Gig	TJ5.2	5.25", 2048K	$70	$68	$64

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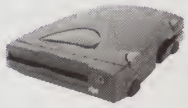

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ISA Controller (JAZJETISA)/ PCI Controller (JAZJETPCI)	$89/$95
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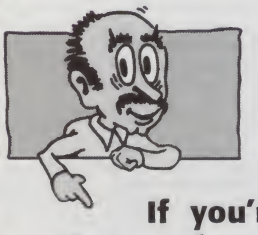

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36.4GB	2MB	10,000	(TN336400LW)	$935

SEAGATE ULTRA 160 SCSI *(Check out the Cache!)*

9.2GB	4MB	10,000	(ST39204LW)	$341
18.2GB	4MB	10,000	(ST318404LW)	$507
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	(ST336704LW)	$879
36.7GB	16MB	10,000	(ST336704LWV)	$915
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	(ST173404LW)	$1559
73.4GB	16MB	10,000	(ST173404LWV)	$1579

IBM ULTRA 160 SCSI

9.1GB	4MB	10,000	(07N3220)	$334
18.3GB	4MB	10,000	(07N3210)	$499
36.9GB	4MB	10,000	(07N3200)	$865
70+GB	Call for details!			

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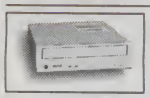
The Hottest Lineup In CDR-W, CDR, CD-Rom Drives & Accessories

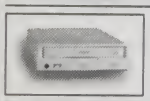
IDE CDRW DRIVE

Packet write and tray load

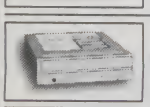
MicroSolutions
4x4x20 Parallel Port
Int. (BACKPAC4X20) $285



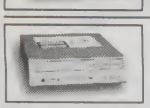
4x4x32 IDE TEAC
Int. (CDW54EKIT) $199
With mastering software, 1 R & RW disk, 2MB buffer



8x4x24 IDE YAMAHA
Int. (YCRW8424E) $209



8x4X32 IDE RICOH
Int. (RW7080AK) $225
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk



8x4x32 IDE PLEXTOR
Int. (PXW8432R) $255
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

8x4X32 IDE Acer
Int. (CRW8432A) $225
8MB buffer
With software, & 1 RW disk

8x4X32 IDE CREATIVE
Int. (SBCDRW8432) $235
2MB buffer
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

10x4x32 IDE SONY
Int. (CRX145E) $279
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

10x4x32 IDE HEWLETT PACKARD
Int. (C4492A) $285
With software

PORTABLE CD ROM

- PCMCIA (PC Card) Type II or III.
- Only 6.72" L x 5.92"W x .88"H
- Fast 24x, 190ms speed
- Audio jack for earphone
- Wall transformer

(PCMCIA24X) **$99**

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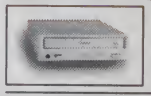
Print Your Own CDs!
Premiere Signature III

Your CD's will look professional quality with this color CD printer. Prints on printable CD's. Compatible with PC or Macintosh systems. (CDPRINTER3) **$1069**

SCSI CDRW DRIVE

Packet write and tray load

8x2x20 SCSI PLEXTOR
Int. (PXW8220R) $325
Ext. (PXW8220BX) $385

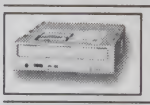


8x4x24 SCSI YAMAHA
Int. (YCRW8424S) $245
Ext. (YCRW8424SX) $295

8x4x32 SCSI SONY
Int. (CRX140S) $279
Ext. (CRX140SX) $329

8x4x32 SCSI HEWLETT PACKARD
Int. (C4457A) $279
Ext. (C4457AX) $339

10x4x32 SCSI SONY
Int. (CRX145S) $335
Ext. (CRX145SX) $395



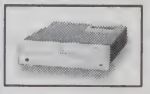
8x2x20 SCSI CenDyne
Int. (CD1CD00028) $335
Ext. (CD1CD00028X) $395

12x4x32 SCSI PLEXTOR
Int. (PXW12432B) $299
Ext. (PXW12432BX) $359

SCSI CD RECORDER

Burn a write-once only CD for ultimate data security and archival storage.

8x20 SCSI PLEXTOR
Int. (PXR820T) $299
Ext. (PXR820TX) $389
Includes Software & 1 disk



8x24 SCSI TEAC
Int. (CDR8X24TK) $265
Ext. (CDR8X24TKX) $355
Includes Software & 1 disk

Rimage CD DUPLICATORS

Attaches to your PC or Mac SCSI Port. 50 Disc auto loader, lets you load 50 discs & walk away. 4X CD record speed CDs are verified on separate 8X drive. Works with most operating systems.

1 CD-R drive (CEDAR10802) $5559
1 - above with printer (CEDAR10802P) $6659

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CD DRIVE CONTROLLERS

Add A Controller — If Needed

For a complete listing of controllers including RAID, See Page 8

ADAPTEC		
A1505CDKIT	ISA 16 Bit SCSI (no hard drive support)	$49
A2906EKIT	PCI 32 Bit SCSI (For PC or Mac)	$54
T1350	EPP Parallel to SCSI adapter	$69
T1460A2KIT	PCMCIA type 2, 3, or 4 to SCSI	$125
T1480A	CardBus to Ultra SCSI	$169
A2940UKIT	PCI 32 bit Ultra SCSI controller	$229
TEKRAM		
DC315U	32 Bit PCI SCSI controller - no bios	$29
DC390	32 Bit PCI SCSI controller	$39
DC390U	32 Bit PCI Ultra SCSI controller	$79
DC390F	32 Bit PCI Ultra Wide SCSI controller	$79
DC390U2	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI controller	$119
DC390U2W	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI Dual Channel controller	$159
PROMISE		
ULTRA33	PCI, Supports Ultra IDE drives	$29
ULTRA66	PCI, Supports Ultra-66 IDE drives	$39
FASTTRAK66	PCI, Supports Ultra ATA-66 IDE drives	$95

CDR SOFTWARE

Add CD Mastering Software — If Not Already Included

Easy-CD Creator 4.0 OEM (EZCDCRTRSTD) Now supports Mac! $30*
-Supports Win 95, 98 & NT 4.0. Ask about new version with free DirectCD
**Must be purchased with CD Recorder.* - Retail version (EZCDCRTRRTL) $90

Toast CD-ROM Pro
- Supports Macintosh includes Direct CD for Mac
- Retail version of above (TOASTRTL) $89

ReZOOM (REZOOM) $75
- Disaster Recovery software has never been this easy. Supports Windows 95/98/NT. Requires second hard drive.

Gear Replicator (GEAR-REP) Newest Version! $49
- Supports Win 95, and NT 4.0 **ONLY $39 with drive purchase!**
- Allows you to copy CD ROM, music CD's, etc

Gear Suite (GEAR-SUITE) $70
- Supports Win 95, 98 and NT 4.0
- Includes Gear Audio, Replicator, and Web Grabber

Gear Pro for UNIX (GEAR-UNIX) $1169
- Compatible with most UNIX workstations

Gear Pro for Windows – New & upgrade versions available $Call

Prassi CD Mastering & duplication for Win 95/98, NT 4.0 & Win 2000
- Support up to 8 CDRs or CDR-Ws (PRIMOCD8) $379
- Support up to 16 CDRs or CDR-Ws (PRIMOCD18) $729
- Support up to 64 CDRs or CDR-Ws (PRIMOCD64) $1399

HYCD Publisher for PC (Windows 3.1, 95, NT) (CDRHYWIN)
- Creates hybrid CDs for PC/Mac/Unix, bootable CDs.
- Includes CD, Copy, Drag and Drop, & music utilities. $399

Creative Digital Research CDR HYCD Publisher for Unix workstations
- Creates standard, hybrid, & bootable CDs for PC/Mac/Unix (CDRHYUNIX) $1559

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- Operating system independent.
- Connect to PC or Mac to produce master CD's
- Direct write from CD-ROM to CD-R
- Copy source CD to HDD once, then make 1-99 duplicates on the CD-R
- Create custom audio CD titles

(CDEZDUPE) **$929**
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CD MEDIA

CD RECORDABLE MEDIA

CDR-74 in jewel case

		Hot New Prices!
12x	Budget 5 pack (CDR74B-5)	$6
12x	Budget 20 pack (CDR74B-20)	$22
12x	Budget 50 pack (CDR74B-50)	$50
12x	Budget 100 pack (CDR74B-100)	$89
12x	5 pack (CDR74-5)	$8
12x	20 pack (CDR74-20)	$27
12x	50 pack (CDR74-50)	$66
12x	100 pack (CDR74-100)	$125
12x	Platinum 5 pack (CDR74PA-5)	$9
12x	Platinum 20 pack (CDR74PA-20)	$29
12x	Platinum 50 pack (CDR74PA-50)	$69
12x	Platinum 100 pack (CDR74PA-100)	$129

Printable CDR-74 in jewel case

12x	Budget 5 pack (CDR74PB-5)	$7
12x	Budget 20 pack (CDR74PB-20)	$22
12x	Budget 50 pack (CDR74PB-50)	$54
12x	Budget 100 pack (CDR74PB-100)	$95
12x	5 pack (CDR74P-5)	$10
12x	20 pack (CDR74P-20)	$37
12x	50 pack (CDR74P-50)	$89
12x	100 pack (CDR74P-100)	$179

CDR-80 80 minute media in jewel case

12x	Budget 5 pack (CDR80-5)	$7
12x	Budget 10 pack (CDR80-10)	$15
12x	Budget 50 pack (CDR80-50)	$49
12x	Budget 100 pack (CDR80-100)	$99
Bulk!	Spindle 74 minute media. Includes 50 CD-Rs (12x), No jewel cases included (CDR74S8-50)	$59
Bulk!	Spindle 74 minute media. Includes 100 CD-Rs (12x), No jewel cases included (CDR74S8-100)	$115
Bulk!	Spindle 80 minute media. Includes 100 CD-Rs (12x), No jewel cases included (CDR80S8-100)	$99
Bulk!	Spindle 80 minute media. Includes 500 CD-Rs (12x), No jewel cases included (CDR80S8-500)	$450

CD REWRITABLE MEDIA

CDR-74W in jewel case

4x	Budget 5 pack (CDR74WB-5)	$9
4x	Budget 20 pack (CDR74WB-20)	$35
4x	Budget 50 pack (CDR74WB-50)	$79
4x	Budget 100 pack (CDR74WB-100)	$159
4x	5 pack (CDR74W-5)	$22
4x	20 pack (CDR74W-20)	$69
4x	50 pack (CDR74W-50)	$179
4x	100 pack (CDR74W-100)	WOW !!! $299

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Get the most sound out of your CDs! We have a massive inventory of quality computer headsets, microphones and speakers with prices starting at just $7! Here's a sampling:

PC Stereo Headphone
Designed to be lightweight and comfortable for extended use.
C105 **$9**

Professional Series Earphone
Designed for home stereo use, maximum in audio performance, and superior comfort.
LT825 **$18**

Professional Series Earphone
Designed for home stereo use, the LT830 delivers the maximum in audio performance, while offering superior comfort and listening convenience.
LT830 **$21**

Professional Series Earphone
Designed for portable audio and home stereo use, the LT820 delivers the maximum in sound performance while offering superior comfort and listening versatility.
LT820 **$13**

Stereo Headset/Boom Microphone
New comfort & fit design provides optimal voice clarity for voice command, internet communications, multi-player gaming and other multimedia applications.
C322 **$20**

Headset/Boom Microphone for PC Speech Recognition Applications
Designed to provide accurate audio input for speech recognition, voice command, internet communications and all other PC multimedia applications. Comfortable too!
LVA8450 **$39**

FlexNeck™ Microphone
Get optimal clarity for voice command, internet telephony, and other multimedia applications.
AM-252 **$12**

Active Series Ultra Portable Earphone
Designed specifically for active lifestyles, the LT615 headphone is lightweight, ultra portable, comfortable and delivers crisp, clear sound.
LT615 **$7**

High Output Hand Microphone
Provides optimal voice clarity for voice command, internet telephony, educational software and other multimedia applications.
AM222 **$13**

FlexiMount™ PC Microphone
Optimal clarity for voice command, internet telephony, educational software, and other multimedia applications. Features wide base stand.
AM240 **$12**

Computer Speakers for High Quality Music and Sound Output
Two piece multimedia design reproduces full range of sound to satisfy a wide variety of musical tastes. Brings recording studio quality sound to your desktop.
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Includes digital audio streaming resulting in crystal-clear sound, free of the noise and distortion often generated inside a PC.
LCS1040 **$75**

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LCS150 **$15**

Computer Speakers
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LCS1010 **$18**

Space-Saver™ Computer Speakers with Dynamic Bass Equalization
Make the most of limited desk space while enjoying great sound that makes the most of your CD-ROMS, music and games.
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- 10X DVD drive, 100ms
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- 8X DVD reader, 105ms • 40X CD ROM, 85ms
  Bare IDE Drive (SDM1302) $129

PIONEER

- 16X DVD reader, 95ms
- 40X CD ROM, 80ms
- Bare IDE Drive tray load *(Also avail as slot load)* (DVD115) $169
- 10X DVD reader, 110ms • 40X CD ROM, 80ms
  Bare IDE Drive slot load (DVD104) $149
- 4.8X DVD reader, 120ms • 32X CD ROM, 90ms
  Bare SCSI Drive slot load (DVD303) $129
- DVD Recorder, DVD-R write 1x, DVD-R read 2x, 4MB buffer, Inc. write, DVD software + 3 DVD disks (DVRS201) **$3999**

Dirt Cheap Drive Kit
- 16X kit complete with MPEG-2 decoder
- 16X DVD reader, 95ms • 40X CD ROM, 80ms
- IDE interface • Supports CDR and CD-RW media

Complete Kit (DVD16KIT) $245

Creative DVD Kit

- Encore DVD 8X kit includes: 125ms 8X DVD drive
- Reads CDs at 40X, 90ms
- MPEG-2 decoder
- DVD Titles (CLDVD8KIT) $229

DVD-RAM Drives Stores 5.2GB!

Creative DVD RAM Kit (CLDVDRAM) **only $279**

Toshiba *DVD utility software PC or Mac only $59*
- DVD-RAM 1X, 120ms • DVD-ROM 2x, 210 ms
- CD-ROM 16x, 140ms • 2MB buffer
- Reads DVD-ROM, DVD-R, DVD-Video, Video CD, CD-ROM, CED-Audio, CD-R, and CD-RW disks.

Bare SCSI drive (SDW1111) $409

Panasonic Kit with Software and 2.6GB media
- DVD-RAM 1x, 120ms • DVD-ROM 2x, 85ms
- CD-ROM 20x, 85ms • 2MB buffer
- Reads DVD-ROM, DVD-R, CD-RW, and PD disks.

SCSI drive kit (LFD103U) $589

DVD RAM MEDIA

5.2 media (DVDRAMDISK) 1-4/5-9/10+ $37/$35/$33

DVD utility software for PC (DVDSFTPC-NT) for Mac (DVDSFTMAC) $59

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DVD Accessories

SIGMA DESIGNS HOLLYWOOD
- Best Selling PCI Based MPEG-2 decoder board (HOLLYWOOD) $69

WAVELINK PC TO TV TRANSMITTER

View DVD movie titles on TV without the use of wires. 2.4GHz signal penetrates walls, floors, and ceilings. Operates up to 300 feet away. Sends and receives crisp color and stereo audio. Also works with many other video/audio sources.

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SCSI CD ROM DRIVE

Speed	Brand	Model	ms	Buffer	Int	Ext
32X	TEAC	CD532S	85	128K	$82	$172
32X	PLEXTOR	PX32TS (TRAY)	85	512K	$88	$178
32X	PLEXTOR	PX32CS (CADDY)	85	512K	$140	$230
40X	NEC	CDR3010	85	256K	$72	$162
40X	TOSHIBA	XM6401B	85	256K	$82	$172
40X	PLEXTOR	PX40TS (TRAY)	85	512K	$98	**$188**
52X	KENWOOD	UCR415	90	2MB	***$149***	***$239***
72X	KENWOOD	***Call for details on this hot new drive!***				
WIDE SCSI CD ROM						
40X	Plextor	PX40TSUW	85	512K	$99	$189

Pioneer 24x 6 Disk external CD changer (DRM6324X) $395

ACCESSORIES

Universal sound cable (AUDIOMIX) $5 · CD Driver software. for Mac (RAPIDPD) $8

CD Caddies (CDCADDY) *5-19* $5 *20+* $4

IDE CD ROM DRIVE

Speed	Brand	Model	ms	Buffer	Drive
40X	Teac	CD540E	85	128K	$49
40X	NEC	CDR3000	75	128K	$53
48X	Toshiba	XM6702B	85	256K	$57
48X	Mitsumi	CRMCFX48X	65	256K	$53
50X	Acer	CD650P	85	128k	$47
52X	Creative	SBCD52	100	256k	$49
52X	Kenwood	UCR412	90	2MB	$89
72X	Kenwood	UCR421	100	2MB	$119

Call for IDE CD ROM towers - up to 8 CD ROMs in one tower!
Also available in rack mount - perfect for libraries.

CD ROM Accessories

Buy a CD drive & sound card & get a FREE audio cable.

Sound Blaster Live MP3+ (SBLIVEMP3+)	$95
Sound Blaster Live X-Gamer (SBX-GAMER)	$92
Sound Blaster 512 (SBPCI512)	$69
Platinum (SBPLATINUM)	$182
IDE CD ROM case with card and cable (HOTPORT)	$129
IDE CD ROM case for parallel printer port (PPCASECD)	$59
IDE CD ROM case for PCMCIA port (PCMCIACD)	$115

IDE CDR & DVD-ROM in ONE!

Toshiba
- 4X, 4X Rewrite CD-RW, 4X DVD Read, 24X CD Read Complete Drive Kit (SDR1002) **$339**

Ricoh
- 6X, 4X Rewrite CD-RW, 4X DVD Read, 24X CD Read Complete Drive Kit (MP9060A) **$345**

FISC-CD (Ethernet IDE CD Controller)

• Connect up to 8 IDE CD ROMS (in increments of 2) directly to your Ethernet network without a computer. Auto switches between Ethernet and Fast Ethernet connection. Features 8MB RAM buffer, user upgradable to 72MB through SIMM sockets. FISC CD offers the most complete protocol support in the industry: Windows NT, Netware, Unix, Web server, and Macintosh. This controller is internet ready with built-in WWW server function. Mounts in a 5.25"HH drive bay. (FISC-CD) **$665**

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8 Drive Auto Switching Network CD Tower

Pre-assembled 8 drive tower. Uses FISC-CD controller listed above.
40X Drive tower (MIT40X8N) $1189
48X Drive tower (MIT48X8N) $1219

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We offer the best deals in the industry on multidrive CD ROM drive towers for SCSI or Ethernet connections. From 2 drives to 13 drives and beyond, call us with your needs. We'll be glad to meet your specifications. Here's just a small sampling.

SCSI Towers

			4 Drives	7 Drives
Plextor	32X	85ms	$429 #PLEX32X4B	$769 #PLEX32X7B
Toshiba	40X	79ms	$399 #TOS6401X4B	$699 #TOS6401X7B
Plextor	40X	85ms	$439 #PLEX40X4B	$779 #PLEX40X7B
Plextor	40X	85ms	$519 #PLEX40WX4B	$899 #PLEX40WX7B
Plextor 40X Now available in Ultra Wide SCSI!				
NEC	40X	85ms	$369 #NEC3010X4B	$649 #NEC3010X7B
Kenwood	52X	85ms	$729 #KEN415X4B	$1279 #KEN415X7B

Ethernet CD ROM Towers - Can be used simultaneously from Win 95, NT, OS/2, & UNIX platforms using Novell Netware, Microsoft Networks & NFS

	7 Drive 10baseT	*7 Drive* 10/100	*13 Drive* 10baseT	*13 Drive* 10/100
Plextor 32X	$1239 #PLEX32X7N	$1359 #PLEX32X7NT	$2139 #PLEX32X13T	$2439 #PLEX32X13E
Toshiba 40X	$1195 #TOS6401X7N	$1309 #TOS6401X7NT	$2059 #TOS6401X13T	$2359 #TOS6401X13E
Plextor 40X	$1305 #PLEX40X7N	$1419 #PLEX40X7NT	$2259 #PLEX40X13T	$2565 #PLEX40X13E
NEC 40X	$1125 #NEC3010X7N	$1239 #NEC3010X7NT	$1925 NEC3010X13T	$2225 #NEC3010X13E
Kenwood 52X	$1739 #KEN415X7N	$1845 #KEN415X7NT	$3049 #KEN415X13T	$3355 #KEN415X13E

Axis StorePoint CD *Ethernet SCSI CD Controller*

Connect your SCSI CD ROM drives directly to your Ethernet or Token Ring network without a computer. Stand alone has its own external enclosure. Tower module mounts in a tower case & occupies 15.25" HH drive bay.

Enclosure	Network	Max # Drives	Item #	Price
Stand-alone	Ethernet	7	AXISCD-E	$465
Stand-alone	TokenRing	7	AXISCD-TR	$545
Tower Module	Token Ring	7	AXISCD/T-TR	$555
Tower Module	Ethernet	7	AXISCDE100	$585
Tower Module	Ethernet	14	AXISCDE100D	$655
Tower Module	Ethernet or Fast ethernet	7	AXISCD/DVD	$765
Tower Module	Ethernet or Fast ethernet	14	AXISCD/DVDD	$955

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USB DRIVES & USB STUFF

4x4x32 CD Rewritable for PC or Mac

Master Cds with this complete kit. Includes mastering software and drive in high quality external USB case.

#USB4X4X32 $279

100MB Zip Drive

Iomega USB 100MB Zip drive. Easy to install, simply connect to the USB port on your system and install the included software.

#ZIP100USB $129

250MB Zip

Iomega USB 250MB Zip drive. Easy to install, simply connect to the USB port on your system and install the included software.

#ZIP250USB $179

2.2GB Orb

Revolutionary removable media storage by Castlewood Systems holds 2.2GB of uncompressed storage capacity. Includes a 2.2GB cartridge.

#ORBUSB $259

USB to SCSI Adapter

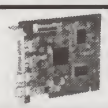
USB to SCSI adapter by Adaptec. Allows you to attach any SCSI device to the USB port. Supports up to 7 SCSI devices.

#USBSCSI $69

SuperDisk Drive 120MB & Floppy

Imation LS-120 USB drive for iMac & Blue G3 systems. Reads Mac & PC formats. Uses 1.4MB and 120MB disks.

#USBLS120 $149



1394 USB/PCI Board

2 1394 ports & 2 USB external ports for plug and play peripherals.

#70HTL00060 $149

Floppy Drive

Teac USB floppy for iMac. Reads & writes Mac and PC formats. Features iMac blue case.

#USBFLOPPY $85

8GB Hard Drive

8GB USB external hard drive with built-in fan and USB cable. Cool looking translucent white plastic casing.

#USB8GB $159

17GB Hard Drive

17GB USB external hard drive with built-in fan and USB cable. Cool looking translucent white plastic casing.

#USB17GB $189

20GB Hard Drive

20GB USB external hard drive with built-in fan and USB cable. Cool looking translucent white plastic casing.

#USB20GB $213

30GB Hard Drive

30GB USB external hard drive with built-in fan and USB cable. Cool looking translucent white plastic casing.

#USB30GB $275

1394/FIREWIRE

Hot 1394 products by Orange Micro Inc.

The new 1394 interface is a high performance technology that can support up to 63 devices with current data transfer speeds up to 400Mbits per second. This hot new technology is also known as Firewire and i.Link.

1394 PCMCIA CardBus

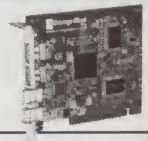
Hot plug connect multimedia peripherals to your computer without restarting. Dual connectors support 1394 peripherals such as disk drives, scanners, printers and digital cameras.

1394 CardBus PC Card (70HTL00040) $129

1394 USB/PCI Board

2 1394 & 2 USB external ports for plug and play peripherals.

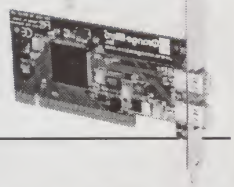
USB/PCI Board (70HTL00060) $149



1394 PCI Board Kit

Edit video from your Mac or PC!

Mac/PC PCI Board Kit: (70HTL13941) $125



1394 Hub

Disconnect 1394 peripherals without disturbing other peripherals in a traditional daisy chain. Provides 5 additional 1394 ports from a single power supply.

1394 Hub (70HTL00030) $85

1394 Repeater and Cables

Connect one repeater to another using 15 foot cables. Reach up to 236 feet total length from the original 1394 host system.

1394 Repeater	(70HTL00020)	$45
15 Ft. Cable: 6pin to 4pin	(70CAB13943)	$28
15 Ft. Cable: 6pin to 6pin	(70CAB13942)	$30

CALL TODAY **for current pricing & information or visit our secure website 24 hours a day at: www.dirtcheapdrives.com/1394**

1394 UMAX PowerLook 1100 Scanner with DuoDesign Software Bundle

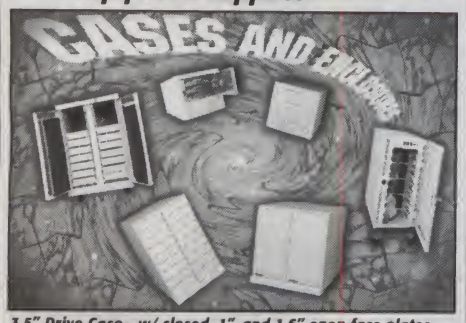
(SPKG14006) **$979**

Designed for use on Macintosh or Windows PC systems equipped with a FireWire/IEEE-1394 port. The PowerLook 1100 features a high 3.4Dmax for fine details, 4MB I/O buffer, 1200 x 2400 dpi with a 10,600 element tri-linear CCD, and an effective 42-bit output.

DIRT CHEAP

DRIVE CASES

Models available with redundant hot swap power supplies.



3.5" Drive Case - w/ closed, 1", and 1.6" open face plates.	
Ultra (3.5CASEC)	$69
Ultra Wide SCSI (3.5CASECW)	$89
Ultra 160 SCSI (comp w/ U-2) (3.5CASE160)	$109
Parallel/IDE closed & 1" open face (PPCASEHD)	$79
PCMCIA/IDE closed & 1" open face (PCMCIA3.5)	$119
5.25" Drive Case with closed, 1", 1.6", and CD face plates.	
Ultra (HHCASET)	$59
Ultra Wide SCSI (HHCASETW)	$89
Ultra 160 SCSI (comp w/ U-2) (HHCASET160)	$99
Parallel/IDE closed & open face (PPCASECD)	$89
PCMCIA/IDE open&closed face (PCMCIACD)	$129
Two Drive Case – Holds 2 half height or 1 full height drive.	
Ultra (FHCASE)	$89
Ultra Wide SCSI (FHCASEW)	$129
Ultra 160 SCSI (comp w/ U-2) (FHCASE160)	$139
Dual 3.5" drive model	
Ultra (DUAL3.5CASE)	$89
Ultra Wide SCSI (DUAL3.5CW)	$109
Ultra 160 SCSI (comp w/ U-2) (DUAL3.5C160)	$129
Four Drive Case – Holds 4 half height or 2 full height drives.	
Ultra (DUALCASET)	$109
Ultra Wide SCSI (DUALCASETW)	$129
Ultra 160 SCSI (comp w/ U-2)(DUALCASE160)	$139
Eight Drive Case – Holds 8 half height or 4 full height drives.	
Ultra (TOWERCASET)	$189
Ultra Wide SCSI (TOWERCASETW)	$209
Ultra 160 SCSI (comp w/ U-2) (TOWERCSE160)	$229
Fourteen Drive Case – Holds 14 half height or 6 full height drives.	
Ultra (14BAYCASE)	$419
Ultra Wide SCSI (14BAYCASEFW)	$439
Ultra 160 SCSI (comp w/ U-2) (14BAYCSE160)	$449
Eighteen Drive Case – Holds 18 half height or 8 full height drives.	
Ultra (18BAYCASE)	$599
Ultra Wide SCSI (18BAYCASEFW)	$619
Ultra 160 SCSI (comp w/ U-2)(18BAYCSE160)	$639
Twenty Drive Case – Holds 20 half height or 10 full height drives.	
Ultra (20BAYCASE)	$679
Ultra Wide SCSI (20BAYCASEFW)	$699
Ultra 160 SCSI (comp w/ U-2) (20BAYCSE160)	$719

For complete listing of our current cases and enclosures, visit:

www.dirtcheapdrives.com/cases

Hot Port External IDE Case

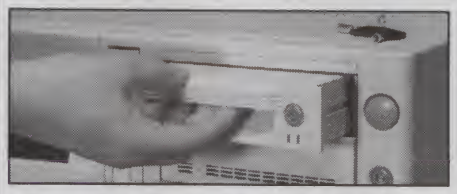
The perfect way to turn any IDE drive into an external. Great for Hard drives, CD ROM, CD-R, CD-RW, tape, optical, DVD, or any other IDE drive. Includes IDE controller card, cable, and case. Power goes through the data cable so no awkward power cables. Perfect for sharing drives among multiple computers. TWICE as fast. as an external parallel port case and cheaper than SCSI. (HOTPORT) $129

Extra HotPort controller (HOTCT) $59

MAKE YOUR DRIVE REMOVEABLE & SECURE

With DataPort™, You *CAN* Take It With You!

Have you been wondering if your data is secure while you're away from your desk? The solution is simple. Take your hard drive with you when you go. No more security worries. No more files left behind. Just put your drive in a padded carrying case whenever you're away from your PC. With DataPort™, you *can* take it with you when you go.



Keep your data secure by turning any 3½" drive into a removable. DataPort™ Kit includes:

1. **Frame** – Installs into your 3½" drive bay ***AND***
2. **Cartridge** – Holds your internal drive allowing it to slip in and out of the bay on the installed frame.

DATAPORT IV

SCSI ID switch, and gold plated connectors. Plastic construction with metal top and bottom covers on cartridge.

COMPLETE KIT	
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge	
IDE with plastic cartridge (TRANSIDE)	$59
SCSI with plastic cartridge (TRANSSCSI)	$59
EXTRA CARTRIDGE	
Plastic IDE (TRANSIDECA)	$35
Plastic SCSI (TRANSSCSICA)	$35
EXTRA FRAME	
IDE (TRANSIDEFR)	$29
SCSI (TRANSSCSIFR)	$29

DATAPORT V

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan, SCSI ID switch. Metal frame construction. Plastic cartridge with metal top and bottom covers.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
IDE 66 w/plastic cartridge (DP2200A66)	$85	n/a
IDE 66 w/ metal cartridge (DP2200AM66)	$95	$109
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP2200UW)	$139	$159
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Plastic IDE 66 (DPACART66)	$42	n/a
Metal IDE 66 (DPACARTM66)	$62	$79
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWCART)	$69	$89
EXTRA FRAME		
IDE 66 (DPAFRAME66)	$52	
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWFRAME)	$79	

DATAPORT VI

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan with audible fan failure alarm, SCSI ID switch. Metal frame and metal cartridge construction.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
Ultra SCSI (DP2200SM)	$89	$129
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP2200UWM)	$149	$169
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DP2200SCA)	$139	$159
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Ultra SCSI (DPSCARTM)	$59	$79
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWCARTM)	$89	$109
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DPSCACART)	$89	$109
EXTRA FRAME		
Ultra SCSI (DPSFRAMEL)	$59	
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWFRAMEA)	$69	
SCA (DPSCAFRAME)	$79	
ACCESSORIES for DataPort V and VI		
Cover plate to cover opening whencartridge is removed (DPFPLATE)	$8	$10

DATAPORT VII

High quality DataPort series made for 10,000rpm drives with dual cooling fans.

COMPLETE KIT	
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge	
IDE (metal cartridge) (DP2200A7)	$129
Ultra SCSI (DP2200S7)	$139
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP2200W7)	$149
EXTRA FRAME	
IDE/Ultra SCSI/Ultra Wide SCSI	$69/$79/$89
EXTRA CARTRIDGE	
IDE/Ultra SCSI/Ultra Wide SCSI	$79/$89/$89

DATAPORT VIII

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features 2 built in cooling fans (one front, one rear), SCSI ID switch. Metal frame and metal cartridge construction. LCD display shows time, drive temperature, SCSI ID, and voltage.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP2200W8)	$159	$169
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP8CART)	$79	$89
EXTRA FRAME		
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP8FRAME)	$89	

DATAPORT™ PADDED CARRYING CASE

Fits all removable cartridges. Great for safe transportation and storage once the cartridge is removed. Soft internal padding for shock protection.

Professional Aluminum Carrying Case (DPCASEM) **Just $35**

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CONTROLLERS

adaptec

		BARE	/KIT
A1505CDKIT	ISA 16 Bit SCSI (no hard drive support)		$49
A2906EKIT	PCI 32 Bit SCSI (For PC or Mac)		$54
T1350	EPP Parallel to SCSI adapter		$69
T1460A2KIT	PCMCIA type 2, 3, or 4 to SCSI		$125
T1480A	CardBus to Ultra SCSI		$169
AAA131U2	PCI RAID controller for Ultra-2		$435
AAA133U2	PCI Ultra-2 RAID 3 channel controller		$695
ARO1130U2	RAIDPORT II Ultra-2 RAID controller		$269
A2940UKIT	PCI 32 bit Ultra SCSI controller		$229
NEW Ultra 160 Controllers			
A19160B	Ultra 160 SCSI bare card		$169
A19160	Ultra 160 SCSI controller w/SpeedFlex software		$239
A39160	Ultra 160 SCSI 64 bit PCI 2 channel		$359
A29160B	Ultra 160 SCSI 64 bit bare card		$229
A29160	Ultra 160 SCSI 64 bit single channel		$299
A29160N	Ultra 160 SCSI 32 bit PCI controller		$289
APD29160MAC	Ultra 160 SCSI controller for Macintosh		$295
APD39160MAC	Ultra 160 SCSI controller for Macintosh FAST!		$399
AAAUDMAKIT	PCI 4 channel UDMA/66 RAID		$399

NEW From Adaptec - ReZoom

Disaster Recovery software. Easy to use software allows you to back up from IDE or SCSI hard drive. Simple one click operation. $69

DPT
Distributed Processing Technology

PM2654U2R16 Ultra-2 w/RAID 0,1,5,0+1,0+5,&16MB	$699
PM2654U2R26 twin channel of above	$825
PM2654U2R36 three channel of above	$945
PM3755U2BB1 64 bit PCI, 1 channel U2 SCSI RAID	$1419
PM3755U2BB2 64 bit PCI, 2 channel U2 SCSI RAID	$1559
PM3755U2BB3 64 bit PCI, 3 channel U2 SCSI RAID	$1669
PM3755F-16M Smart RAID 64bit Fibre channel	$1399
SM4050/16 16MB ECC EDO Memory - upgrade module	$99
SM4050/64 64MB ECC EDO Memory - upgrade module	$299
SX4055U21 32 bit expansion - Adds 1 Ultra-2 SCSI channel	$259
SX4055U22 64 bit expansion - Adds 2 Ultra-2 SCSI channels	$369
PM1564U3 32 bit single channel Ultra 160	$469
PM1564U3-2U 32 bit 2 channel Ultra 160	$589
PM2865U3-32 64 bit single channel Ultra 160	$829
PM2865U3-2U 64 bit 2 channel Ultra 160	$939
RA4060 RAID accelerator module for PM1564 cards	$359
DM4060-16 16MB ECC EDO Memory - upgrade module	$109
DM4060-64 64MB ECC EDO Memory - upgrade module	$289
DM4070-32 32MB ECC EDO Memory - upgrade module for PM2865 cards	$209
DM4070-64 64MB ECC EDO Memory - upgrade module for PM2865 cards	$349

ARCO COMPUTER PRODUCTS, INC

- Hardware RAID 1 (mirroring) works with most operating systems.
- Jumperless design, 100% data redundancy, 4 drive support
- Works off of existing IDE controller

ISA (ARDUPLIDISK) $189 PCI (ARDUPLIPCI) $195

We appreciate your business!

Tekram

We are really impressed with these controllers. High quality at a very hot price. check them out!

DC315U	32 Bit PCI SCSI controller - no bios	$29
DC390	32 Bit PCI SCSI controller	$39
DC390U	32 Bit PCI Ultra SCSI controller	$79
DC390F	32 Bit PCI Ultra Wide SCSI controller	$79
DC390U2	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI controller	$119
DC390U2W	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI Dual Channel controller	$159

PROMISE TECHNOLOGY, INC.

ULTRA33	PCI, Supports Ultra IDE drives	$29
ULTRA66	PCI, Supports Ultra-66 IDE drives	$39
EIDEPRO	ISA, Supports 4 IDE, & High speed 10	$49
FASTRAK	PCI, IDE RAID controller	$65
FASTTRAK66	PCI, Supports Ultra ATA-66 IDE drives	$95

WE KNOW RAID

Dirt Cheap Drives can custom configure a RAID tower to meet your needs. Here are a few popular components. We stock many other RAID components. Check us out on the web or give us a call.

IDE RAID CASE

Incredible quality. Extremely well built. Just add up to 6 IDE drives of any capacity, and an Ultra Wide SCSI controller to your computer and you are ready for high performance, fault tolerant RAID. Features hot swap drive shuttles, 4 cooling fans, and redundant hot swap power supplies. Run as RAID 0 or 5. Supports all major operating systems. ***CALL FOR THE DEAL!***

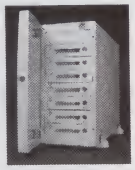
Tower Model (IDERAIDCASE) $1999
Rack Mount Model (IDERAIDRACK) $1999

RAID SUITABLE ENCLOSURES

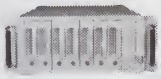
These hard drive enclosures are perfect for RAID or multiple drive applications. They feature hot swapable drive shuttles, and large cooling fans. These cases use a special backplane technology that allows you to use Wide SCSI, Ultra Wide SCSI, or Ultra-2 LVD hard drives without the normal cable length problems. Add drives and a DPT or Adaptec RAID controller for your complete high end RAID solution.

2 Drive Desktop Model (FHCASEUSW) $589

4 Drive Desktop Model (DUALCASEUSW) $729

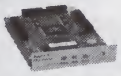


		PLASTIC	BLACK
7 Drive Desktop Model			
(QUADCASEUSW)	U,UW, W	$1399	$1419
(QUADCASEU7)	SCA	$1499	$1519
8 Drive Desktop Model			
(QUADCASEBU2)	U,UW, W	$1499	$1519
(QUADCASEU2)	SCA	$1599	$1619



		PLASTIC	BLACK
7 Drive Desktop Model			
(RACKCASEUSW)	U,UW, W	$1429	$1449
(RACKCASEU7)	SCA	$1529	$1549
8 Drive Desktop Model			
(RACKCASEBU2)	U,UW, W	$1529	$1549
(RACKCASEU2)	SCA	$1629	$1649

IDE RAID 1



IDE RAID has never been this easy. Simply install the bay mount RAID controller unit in a 3.5" drive bay, connect two same size IDE hard drives and boot-up. The unit does the rest for you. Totally transparent and requires no special command. Provides RAID 1 mirroring and features an audible alarm to alert you of drive failure. This is a great product. (ARDUPRAID) $199
Same unit in 5.25" bay ready mount (ARDUP5.25) $209

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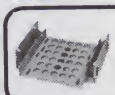
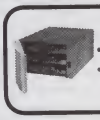
E100 features the fastest way to share CDs or DVDs across a network. Works with most operating systems, including Netware, Windows 95, 98, NT, Macintosh, Unix or Os2. Hard Disk caching provides blistering fast access to stacks of CDs or DVDs. (AXISCD/DVD) $765

Shock Mount Bracket



- Mounts in 5 1/4" HH bay
- Provides shock protection via rubber isolators for 3 1/22" drives. (SBRACKET) $35

Hot swappable drive setup for SCA drives



- Quality metal construction & front cooling fan!
- Mount three 1" high SCA drives in a single 5 1/4" full height drive bay. (SCA3DR-LVD) $229 or $309 for ext.

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Worthington Data Solutions 242

- 1394 -

The 1394 interface is a high performance technology that can support up to 63 devices with data transfer speeds up to 400Mbits per second. We have a wide selection of 1394 products. Check 'em all out at: dirtcheapdrives.com/1394!

CardBus PCMCIA PCI Card	#70HTL00040	$129
USB/PCI Board	#70HTL00060	$149
PC/Mac PCI Board Kit:	#70HTL13941	$125
1394 Hub	#70HTL00030	$85
1394 Repeater	#70HTL00020	$45
15 Ft. Cable: 6pin to 4pin	#70CAB13943	$28
15 Ft. Cable: 6pin to 6pin	#70CAB13942	$30

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- DVD -

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10X DVD ROM Drive by Acer (DVP1040A) $129

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100MB Zip Drive Software Incl. #ZIP100USB	$129	**SuperDisk Drive 120MB & Floppy** Reads Mac & PC #USBLS120	$149	**17GB Hard Drive** #USB17GB	$189
250MB Zip Drive Software Incl. #ZIP250USB	$179	**Floppy Drive for iMac** Reads/writes Mac & PC #USBFLOPPY	$85	**20GB Hard Drive** #USB20GB	$213
2.2GB Orb Cartridge Incl. #ORBUSB	$259	**8GB Hard Drive** #USB8GB	$159	**30GB Hard Drive** #USB30GB	$275

VISA

www.dirtcheapdrives.com/shop 1-800-525-0360

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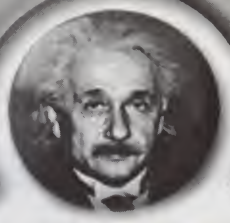

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NON-PARITY 72 PIN-60		
4MB	1X32	$12
8MB	2X32	$17
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EDO 72 PIN-60		
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8MB	2X32 EDO	$20
16MB	4X32 EDO	$45
32MB	8X32 EDO	$90
TRUE PARITY 72 PIN-60		
8MB	2X36-60	$22
16MB	4X36-60	$50
32MB	8X36-60	$99
30-PIN MEMORY		
4MB	LOGIC PARITY	$13
4MB	TRUE PARITY	$18

DESKTOP MEMORY

SDRAM 168-Pin 3.3 Volt Unbuffered with Gold Contacts

SDRAM 66MHz		
32MB	4X64	$33
64MB	8X64	$53
128MB	16X64	$109
PC100 SDRAM 100MHz		
64MB	8X64-100	$49
128MB	16X64-100	$105
256MB	32X64-100	$225
PC100 ECC SDRAM 100MHz		
64MB	8X72-100 ECC	$59
128MB	16X72-100 ECC	$139
256MB	32X72-100 ECC	$269
PC100 CAS 2 SDRAM 100MHz		
64MB	8X64-100 CAS 2	$55
128MB	16X64-100 CAS 2	$115
PC100 CAS 2 ECC SDRAM 100MHz		
64MB	8X72-100 CAS 2	$81
128MB	16X72-100 CAS 2	$149
PC133 SDRAM 133MHz		
64MB	8X64-133	$65
128MB	16X64-133	$112
256MB	32X64-133	$225
CORSAIR MEMORY		
64MB	PC100	$75
64MB	PC100 CAS2	$75
64MB	PC133	$87
128MB	PC100	$165
128MB	PC100 CAS2	$165
128MB	PC133	$165

PROCESSORS

B = 133MHz 512K Cache
E = 100MHz 256K Cache Coppermine
EB = 133MHz 256K Cache Coppermine

Intel Pentium® III Slot 1	
Intel PIII-500	$210
Intel PIII-533B	$210
Intel PIII-533EB	$210
Intel PIII-550	$245
Intel PIII-550E	$262
Intel PIII-600	$275
Intel PIII-600E	$275
Intel PIII-600B	$275
Intel PIII-600EB	$275
Intel PIII-650E	$299
Intel PIII-667EB	$375
Intel PIII-700E	$345
Intel PIII-733EB	$399
Intel PIII-750E	$499
Intel PIII-800E	$599
Intel Pentium®III Socket 370 Flip Chip	
Intel PIII-550E	$210
Intel PIII-600E	$245
Intel PIII-600EB	$245
Intel PIII-650E	$265
Intel PIII-667EB	$285
Intel PIII-700E	$345
Intel PIII-733EB	$365
Intel PIII-750E	$499

Intel Celeron® Socket 370 Processors	
Intel Celeron 433A PPGA	$108
Intel Celeron 466A PPGA	$110
Intel Celeron 500A PPGA	$112
Intel Celeron 533A PPGA	$116
AMD-K6™ / K7™ Athlon™ Processors	
AMD-K6-2 450MHz Processor	$50
AMD-K6-2 500MHz Processor	$56
AMD-K6-2 533MHz Processor	$64
AMD-K6-2 550MHz Processor	$77
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 550MHz Processor	$149
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 600MHz Processor	$177
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 650MHz Processor	$180
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 700MHz Processor	$217
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 750MHz Processor	$262
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 800MHz Processor	$346
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 850MHz Processor	$469
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 900MHz Processor	$646
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 950MHz Processor	$801
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 1GHz Processor	$1199

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Acer	8MB	16MB	32MB	64MB	BATTERY
Light 350, E, 352, 355, 763-880 Series	$25	$46			$149
760i, 760ic	$25	$46			N/A
AST	8MB	16MB	32MB	64MB	BATTERY
Ascentia 800/810 Series		$66			$119
Ascentia J Series Kit	$28	$50	$92		$205
Ascentia P Series	$45	$69	$109		$299
COMPAQ	8MB	16MB	32MB	64MB	BATTERY
Contura 4/25 C, 4/25, 4/25CX	$42	$68			$119
Contura AERO Series	$55	$55			$119
Contura 400/10/20/30 Series	$40	$65			$119
Presario 1600 Series			$41	$77	$140
Presario 1200 Series		$38	$38	$73	$140
Presario 1010/20/30/60/65/70/75/80		$48	$94		CALL
DELL	8MB	16MB	32MB	64MB	BATTERY
Latitude 433m-475mc Series		$66			$119
Latitude LX Series 410D/T/4750		$66			$119
Latitude XP/XPI Series	$28	$46	$65		$219
Latitude LM Series		$51	$92	$117	N/A
FUJITSU	8MB	16MB	32MB	64MB	BATTERY
Milon, Montego, Monte Carlo & Lifebook	$27	$48	$60		N/A
Lifebook 600, 700, 900, B, C, E L		$38	$58	$73	N/A
IBM	8MB	16MB	32MB	64MB	BATTERY
Think Pad 345/355/360 Series	$42	$68			$119
Think Pad 365X/XD Series	$29	$48	$57		$119
Think Pad 760EX/ED/E/EL/XD/XL Series	$29	$48	$57	$116	$145
Think Pad 750-755 Series		$101	$191		$169
NEC	8MB	16MB	32MB	64MB	BATTERY
Ultra Lite Versa Series	$62	$76			$134
Versa M/P 4000 Series	$62	$76	$109		CALL
Versa 6000 Series		$74	$123	$213	N/A
SHARP	8MB	16MB	32MB	64MB	BATTERY
PC-3010/20/40/50/60 Series	$25	$46			$145
PC-87/88/8900 Series		$70			$132
PC-9040/70 Series	$25	$46			N/A
PC-9000 Series		$66	$117		$145
SONY	8MB	16MB	32MB	64MB	BATTERY
VAIO Series		$55	$107	$207	
TOSHIBA	8MB	16MB	32MB	64MB	BATTERY
T2100 Series	$32	$52			$119
T1900/46/47/48/4900 Series	$48	$69			CALL
Satellite Pro 100/200/400 Series	$37	$58	$97		$119
Satellite Pro 300/500/2500 Series		$50	$57	$110	CALL
Tecra 750/780 Series		$50	$57	$110	CALL
Tecra 8000 Series			$55	$105	CALL

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EIDE UDMA/66

WESTERN DIGITAL		
6.4 GB	5400RPM	$94
8.4 GB	5400RPM	$89
10.2 GB	5400RPM	$98
13.6 GB	5400RPM	$114
20.5 GB	5400RPM	$132

Seagate		
8.4 GB	5400RPM	$96
13.0 GB	5400RPM	$117
17.0 GB	5400RPM	$133
20.0 GB	5400RPM	$139

HP PRINTERS MEMORY	2MB	4MB	8MB
LaserJet 4P,MP,V/5,P,MP,N,SI/6P,MP,PXI	$16	$20	$34
LaserJet III, D, P/IIP, Plus	$35	$42	

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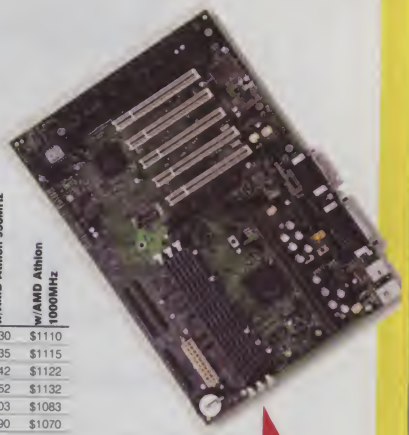
Super7™

	Part Number	Chip Set	L2 Cache (KB)	Maximum Memory (MB)	168-pin DIMM Sockets	72-pin SIMM Sockets	Flash BIOS	Integrated Audio	Integrated Controller	PCI Slots	ISA Slots	AGP Slot	Format	Manufacturer's Warranty	Motherboard Only	w/AMD-K6-2/500	w/AMD-K6-2/550	w/Intel® Pentium® MMX™ 233MHz
EPoX EP-MVP3C2	MB5406	VIA Apollo MVP3	512	384	3		Award		UltraDMA/66	4	2	1	Baby AT	2 Yrs.	$81	$140	$151	$126
EPoX EP-MVP3G5	MB5405	VIA Apollo MVP3	2048	384	3		Award		UltraDMA/66	5	2	1	ATX	2 Yrs.	$106	$165	$176	$151
FIC VA-503+	MB5211	VIA Apollo MVP3	1024	512	2	4	Award			3	3	1	Baby AT	1 Yr.	$76	$135	$146	$121
Shuttle HOT-591P	MB5611	VIA Apollo MVP3	512	256	2	2	Award			3	3	1	Baby AT	1 Yr.	$77	$136	$147	$122
Tyan S1590S Trinity 100AT	MB5006	VIA Apollo MVP3	1024	384	3	2	Award			4	4	1	Mini AT	3 Yrs.	$95	$154	$165	$140
Tyan S1598 Trinity ATX	MB5008	VIA Apollo MVP3	2048	384	3		Award		UltraDMA/66	5	2	1	ATX	3 Yrs.	$121	$180	$191	$166



Slot A

	Part Number	Chip Set	Maximum Memory (MB)	168-pin DIMM Sockets	Flash BIOS	Bus Frequency	Integrated Controller	PCI Slots	ISA Slots	AGP Slot	Format	Manufacturer's Warranty	Motherboard Only	w/AMD Athlon™ 650MHz	w/AMD Athlon 700MHz	w/AMD Athlon 750MHz	w/AMD Athlon 800MHz	w/AMD Athlon 850MHz	w/AMD Athlon 900MHz	w/AMD Athlon 950MHz	w/AMD Athlon 1000MHz
ABIT KA7	MB7501	VIA Apollo KX133	2048	4	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/66	6	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$160	$350	$360	$385	$450	$540	$670	$830	$1110
AMI Megathon	MB7301	AMD-751 / VIA 686A	768	3	Award	100	UltraDMA/66	5	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$165	$355	$365	$390	$455	$545	$675	$835	$1115
Asus K7M	MB7701	AMD-751 / VIA 686A	768	3	Award	100/120/133	UltraDMA/66	5	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$172	$362	$372	$397	$462	$552	$682	$842	$1122
Asus K7V	MB7703	VIA Apollo KX133	1536	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/66	5		1	ATX	1 Yr.	$182	$372	$382	$407	$472	$562	$692	$852	$1132
EPoX EP-7KXA	MB7850	VIA Apollo KX133	768	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/66	5	1	1	ATX	2 Yrs.	$133	$323	$333	$358	$423	$513	$643	$803	$1083
FIC SD11	MB7401	AMD-751 / VIA 686A	768	3	Award	100	UltraDMA/66	5	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$120	$310	$320	$345	$410	$500	$630	$790	$1070
Microstar K7 Pro	MB7202	AMD-750	768	3	Award	100	UltraDMA/66	6	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$149	$339	$349	$374	$439	$529	$659	$819	$1099
Shuttle AI61	MB7901	AMD-750	768	3	Award	100	UltraDMA/66	5		1	MicroATX	1 Yr.	$123	$313	$323	$348	$413	$503	$633	$793	$1073
Tyan S2380 Trinity K7	MB7000	VIA Apollo KX133	768	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/66	6	1	1	ATX	3 Yrs.	$150	$340	$350	$375	$440	$530	$660	$820	$1100

Socket 370

	Part Number	Chip Set	Maximum Memory (MB)	168-pin DIMM Sockets	Flash BIOS	Integrated Audio	Integrated Video	PCI Slots	ISA Slots	AGP Slot	AMR Slot	Format	Manufacturer's Warranty	Motherboard Only	w/Intel® Celeron™ processor 500/A MHz 128K OD 66MHz FSB	w/Intel Celeron 566 128K OD 66MHz FSB	w/Intel Celeron 600 128K OD 66MHz FSB	w/Intel Celeron 633 128K OD 66MHz FSB	w/Dual Intel Celeron 633 128K OD 66MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium® III 667 256K OD 133MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 733 256K OD 133MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 750 256K OD 100MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 800/EB 256K OD 100/133MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 866 256K OD 133MHz FSB
ABIT BP6 (Dual)	MB6506	Intel 440BX	768	3	Award			5	2	1		ATX	1 Yr.	$149	$234	$259	$284	$319	$489	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ASUS CUC2000	MB6724	Intel® 820	1024	4	Award	AC-97		5	1	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$169	$254	$279	$304	$339	N/A	$399	$459	$569	$629	$839
EPoX EP-3VCA	MB6854	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3	Award	AC-97		4	1	1	1	ATX	2 Yrs.	$105	$190	$215	$240	$275	N/A	$335	$395	$505	$565	$775
Shuttle ME64	MB6310	Intel 810E	512	2	Award	Intel 810E	Intel 810E	3			1	Micro ATX	1 Yr.	$116	$201	$226	$251	$286	N/A	$346	$406	$516	$576	$786
SuperMicro 370SCD	MB6159	Intel® 820	512	2	AMI	AC-97		5		1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$144	$229	$254	$279	$314	N/A	$374	$434	$544	$604	$814
SuperMicro 370SEA	MB6140	Intel 810E	512	2	AMI	Intel 810E	Intel 810E	6	1		1	ATX	1 Yr.	$134	$219	$244	$269	$304	N/A	$364	$424	$534	$594	$804
SuperMicro 370DLE	MB6154	Reliance LE	2048	2	AMI			6	1			ATX	1 Yr.	$333	$418	$443	$468	$503	$673	$563	$623	$733	$793	$1003
SuperMicro 370DL3	MB6155	Reliance LE	2048	2	AMI			6	1			ATX	1 Yr.	$536	$621	$646	$671	$706	$876	$766	$826	$936	$996	$1206
Tyan S1857 Trinity 371	MB6017	Intel 440BX	768	3	AMI			6	1	1		ATX	3 Yrs.	$105	$190	$215	$240	$275	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tyan S1854 Trinity 400	MB6018	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3	Award			6	1	1		ATX	3 Yrs.	$105	$190	$215	$240	$275	N/A	$335	$395	$505	$565	$775

Slot 1

	Part Number	Chip Set	Maximum Memory (MB)	168-pin DIMM Sockets	168-pin RIMM Sockets	Flash BIOS	Integrated Audio	Integrated Controller	PCI Slots	ISA Slots	AGP Slot	Format	Manufacturer's Warranty	Motherboard Only	w/Intel® Pentium III® 550 512K 100MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 650/667 256K OD 100/133MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 700 256K OD 100MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 733 256K OD 133MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 750 256K OD 100MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 800/EB 256K OD 100/133MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 850 256K OD 100MHz FSB	w/Dual Intel Pentium III 550 512K 100MHz FSB	w/Dual Intel Pentium III 750 256K OD 100MHz FSB
ABIT BE6-II	MB6508	Intel 440BX	768	3		Award		UltraDMA/66	5	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$135	$330	$365	$425	N/A	$535	$595	N/A	N/A	N/A
ABIT BF6	MB6507	Intel 440BX	768	3		Award			6	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$115	$310	$345	$405	N/A	$515	$575	N/A	N/A	N/A
ABIT VA6	MB6509	VIA Apollo Pro 133	768	3		Award	AC-97	UltraDMA/66	5	2	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$85	$280	$315	$375	$385	$485	$545	$745	N/A	N/A
ABIT VT6X4	MB6510	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3		Award	AC-97	UltraDMA/66	5	2	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$107	$302	$337	$397	$407	$507	$567	$767	N/A	N/A
Asus P2B-DS	MB6707	Intel 440BX	1024	4		Award			4	2	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$479	$674	$709	$769	N/A	$879	$939	N/A	$869	$1279
Asus P3B-F	MB6720	Intel 440BX	1024	4		Award			6	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$133	$328	$363	$423	N/A	$533	$593	N/A	N/A	N/A
Asus P3C2000	MB6722	Intel 820	1024	4		Award	AC-97	UltraDMA/66	5	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$161	$356	$391	$451	$461	$561	$621	$821	N/A	N/A
Asus P3V4X	MB6723	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	1024	4		Award		UltraDMA/66	6	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$118	$313	$348	$408	$418	$518	$578	$778	N/A	N/A
EPoX EP-6VBA2	MB6855	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3		Award	AC-97	UltraDMA/66	4	2	1	ATX	2 Yrs.	$109	$304	$339	$399	$409	$509	$569	$769	N/A	N/A
FIC KA11	MB6411	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	1024	4		Award		UltraDMA/66	5	2	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$96	$291	$326	$386	$396	$496	$556	$756	N/A	N/A
Intel L440GX+	MB6917	Intel 440GX	2048	4		Intel/Phoenix		Adaptec 2-Ch U2W	6	1		ATX	3 Yrs.	$539	$734	$769	$829	N/A	$939	$999	N/A	$929	$1339
Intel SE440BX-2 "Seattle"	MB6921	Intel 440BX	768	3		Intel/Phoenix			4	2	1	ATX	3 Yrs.	$112	$307	$342	$402	N/A	$512	$572	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shuttle AV64	MB6309	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3		Award		UltraDMA/66	5	2	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$89	$284	$319	$379	$389	$489	$549	$749	N/A	N/A
SuperMicro PIIISCD	MB6146	Intel 820	512	2		AMI	AC-97	UltraDMA/66	5		1	ATX	1 Yr.	$146	$341	$376	$436	$446	$546	$606	$806	N/A	N/A
SuperMicro PIIISED	MB6142	Intel 810e	512	2		AMI	AC-97	UltraDMA/66	6			ATX	1 Yr.	$123	$318	$353	$413	$423	$523	$583	$783	N/A	N/A
SuperMicro PIIIDME	MB6151	Intel 840	4096	4		AMI	AC-97	Intel PRO/100+	6		1	ATX	1 Yr.	$359	$554	$589	$649	$659	$759	$819	$1019	$749	$1159
SuperMicro PIIIDM3	MB6153	Intel 840	4096	4		AMI	AC-97	Adaptec Ultra3/160	6		1	ATX	1 Yr.	$579	$774	$809	$869	$879	$979	$1039	$1239	$969	$1379
SuperMicro P6DGH	MB6129	Intel 440GX	2048	4		AMI		Adaptec 2-Ch U2W	9	2	1	Full AT	1 Yr.	$809	$1004	$1039	$1099	N/A	$1209	$1269	$1469	$1199	$1609
SuperMicro P6SBA	MB6120	Intel 440BX	768	3		AMI			4	3	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$98	$293	$328	$388	N/A	$498	$558	N/A	N/A	N/A
SuperMicro P6SBU	MB6128	Intel 440BX	1024	4		AMI		Adaptec U2W	4	3	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$329	$524	$559	$619	N/A	$729	$789	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tyan S1854 Trinity 400	MB6018	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3		Award		UltraDMA/66	6	1	1	ATX	3 Yrs.	$105	$300	$335	$395	$405	$505	$565	$765	N/A	N/A

Slot 2

	Part Number	Chip Set	Maximum Memory (MB)	168-pin DIMM Sockets	Flash BIOS	Integrated Audio	Integrated Video	Integrated Controller	Integrated Networking	PCI Slots	ISA Slots	AGP Slot	Format	Manufacturer's Warranty	Motherboard Only	w/Intel® Pentium III® Xeon™ 550MHz 512K 100MHz FSB	w/Intel Xeon 550MHz 1M 100MHz FSB	w/Intel Xeon 550MHz 2M 100MHz FSB	w/Dual Intel Xeon 550MHz 512K 100MHz	w/Quad Intel Xeon 550MHz 512K 100MHz	w/Intel Xeon 700MHz 1M 100MHz FSB	w/Intel Xeon 700MHz 2M 100MHz FSB	w/Intel Xeon 800MHz 1M 100MHz FSB
SuperMicro S2DM3	MB6156	Intel 840	4096	4	AMI	AC-97		Adaptec Ultra3/160m	Intel PRO/100+	6		1	ATX	1 Yr.	$676	$1776	$3006	$5016	$2876	N/A	$2076	$3026	$3046
SuperMicro S2DME	MB6160	Intel 840	4096	4	AMI	AC-97			Intel PRO/100+	6		1	ATX	1 Yr.	$446	$1546	$2776	$4786	$2646	N/A	$1846	$2796	$2816
SuperMicro S2DG2	MB6136	Intel 440GX	2048	4	AMI			Adaptec 2-Ch U2W		5	2	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$549	$1649	$2879	$4889	$2749	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SuperMicro S2QR6	MB6190	Reliance HE	16384	16	AMI			AIC-7899 2-Ch Ultra160	Intel 82559	8			SWTX	1 Yr.	$2732	$3832	$5062	$7072	$4932	$7132	$4132	$5082	$5102

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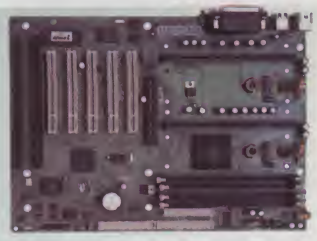

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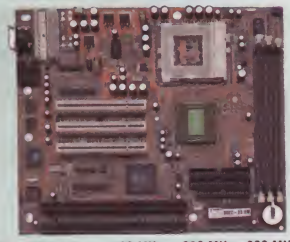

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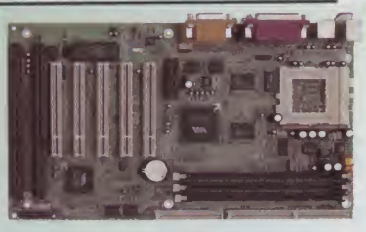

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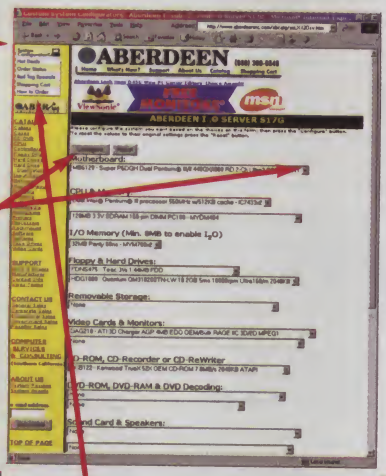

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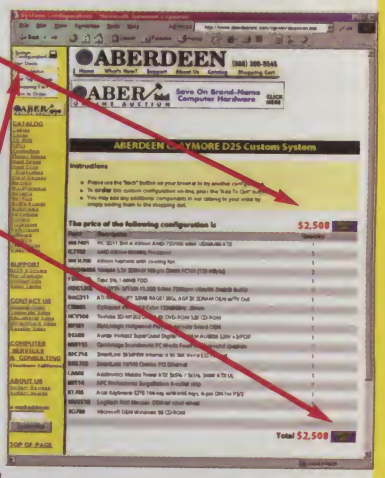

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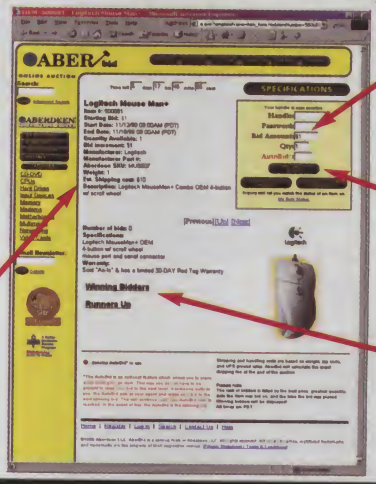

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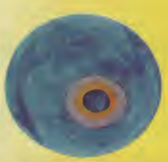

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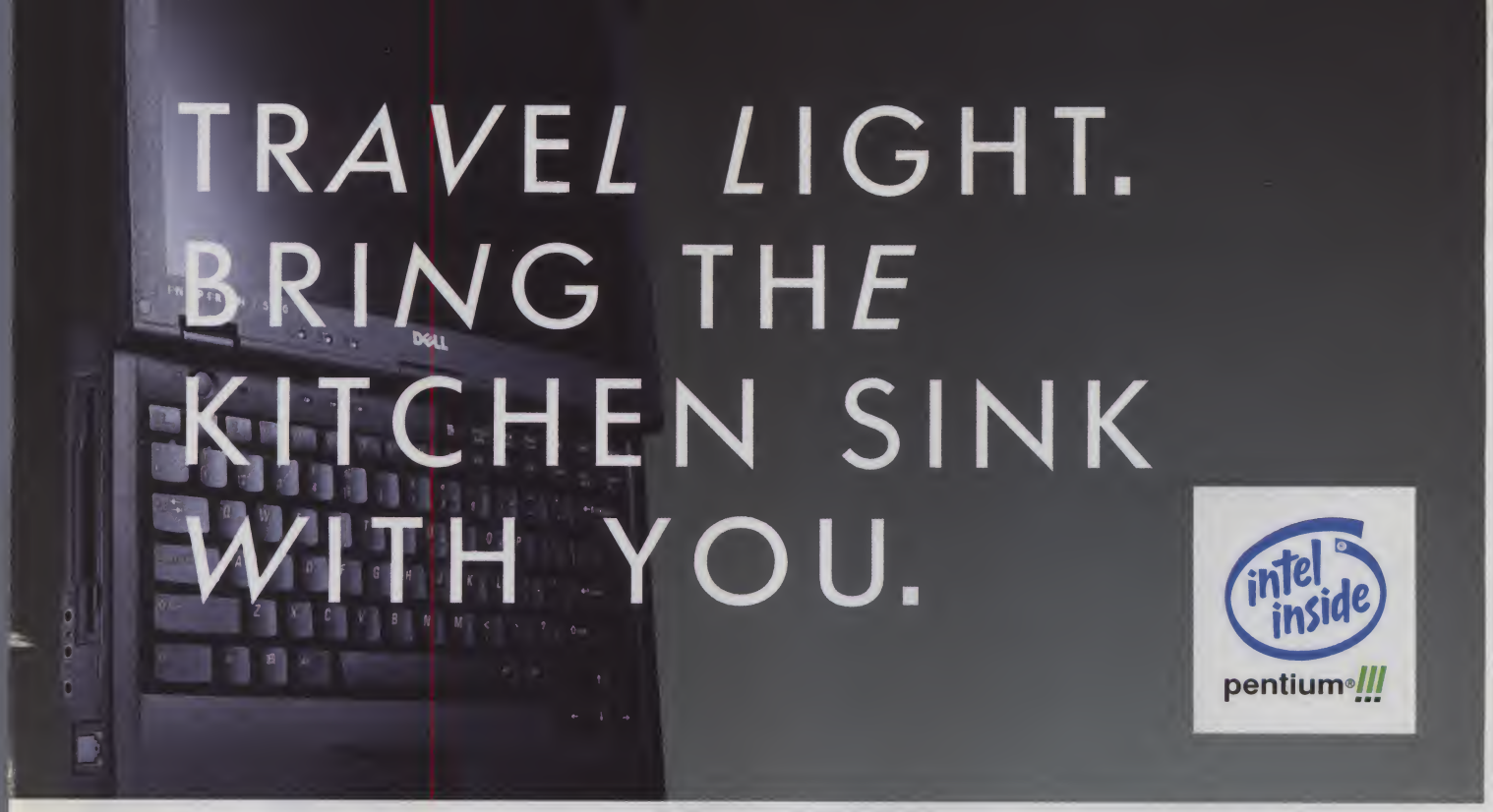

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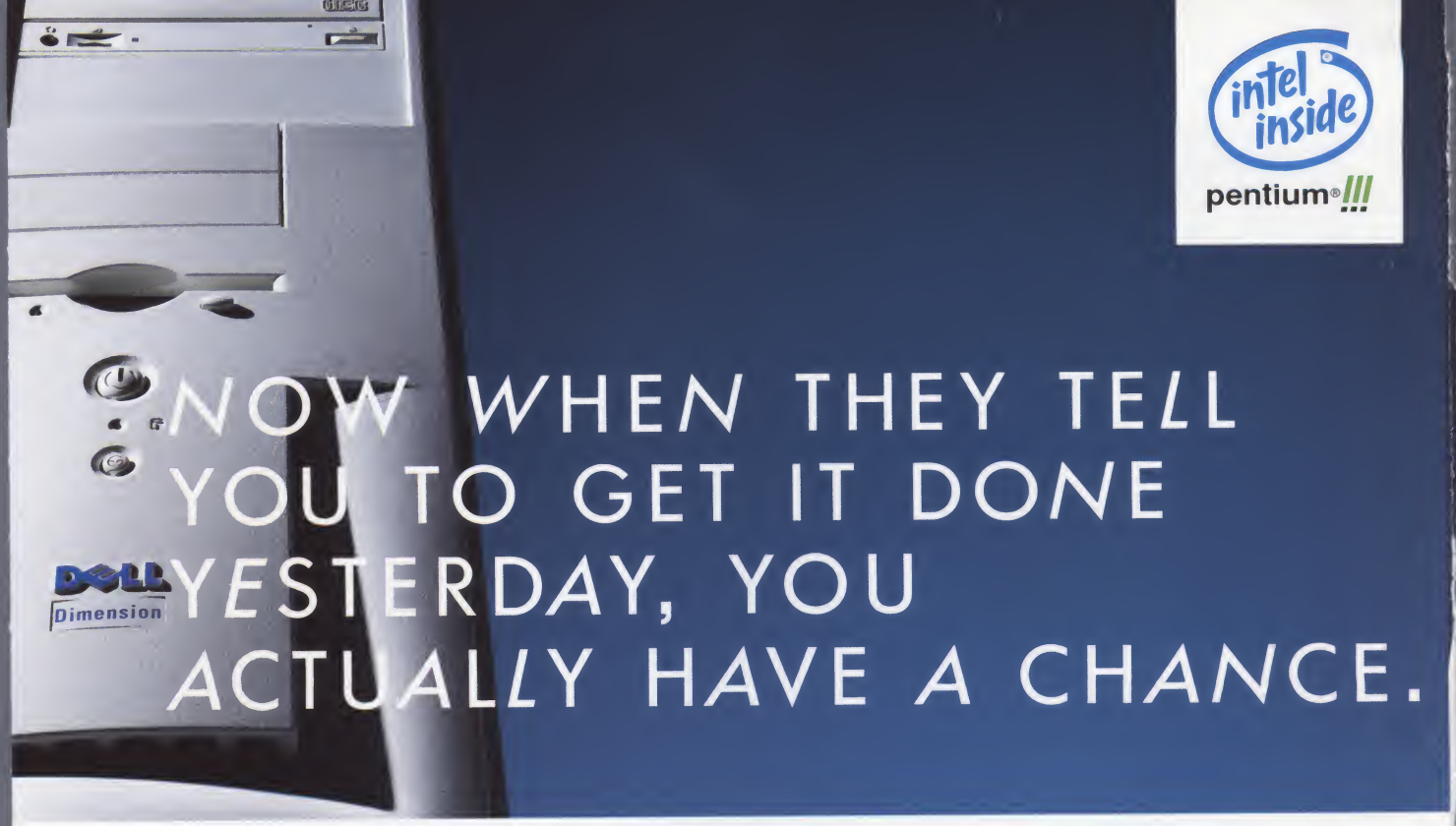

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